





When a babe has a baby of her own

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Disaster! Coming to a cinema near you

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THURSDAY 4 JULY 1996

Yeltsin: The sick man of Europe

He was fighting two battles mounting evidence that the 65yesterday. First, he was seeking to defeat his Communist rival, Gennady Zyuganov. At the same time, and perhaps even more importantly, President Boris Yeltsin was seeking to convince Russians and the outside world that he is robust enough to govern his vast realm into the 21st century.

As the last polling stations closed in European Russia, 24 hours after they opened in Kamchatka in the Far East, the tentative signs were that he vas wirening on one of the two

TONY BARBER, PHIL REEVES and HELEN WOMACK Fronts: first exit polls gave Mr Yeltsin a lead over Mr Zyuganov of 55 to 40 per cent. Less promising was the year-old President and conqueror of Communism may be

too sick to survive a full fouryear second term in office. The implications of this could be cataclysmic. Mr Yeltsin's illness, clearly more serious than the Kremlin's official account of a cold or sore throat, forced him to cast his ballot yesterday morning in the village of Barvikha outside Moscow, the same place where he convalesced after his two heart attacks last year. It was evidently a last-

to keep him under wraps. The nomyrdin, who has gained a rep-President's staff had earlier es-corted four busloads of television crews and reporters to Mr Yeltsin's usual voting station, Osenny Bulvar, in western

After waiting for two hours for the President to arrive, the assembled media were finally informed by his trusty Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, that Mr Yeltsin had already cast his vote at 10am in Barvikha. "Why not – it's easier there, it's nearer there," Mr Chernomyrdin said. "He's all right. He has his finger on the pulse."

If Mr Yeltsin dies, the rems.

utation as a safe pair of hands. He would call fresh elections, within three months. Alexander Lebed, the retired army general whom Mr Yeltsin appointed two weeks ago to take charge of ian national security, would be likely to stand for president. Few in the West would see

much reason to rejoice.

Mr Yeltsin has been ill and disappeared from public view several times in the past, most notoriously in December 1994 when the Russian armed forces stormed into Chechnya and the President was said to be recovering from a "nose operation". But at 65, he has already lived longer than the average

Russian male, and he inflicted a punishing schedule on himself when campaigning across Rus-sia's 11 time zones before the election's first round.

With Mr Yeltsin's history of heart trouble, it seems logical to assume that his week-long absence from public view stems from the same problem. But the US television network CNN, whose broadcasts are closely followed by Russia's political classes, appeared to jump to the wrong conclusion when reporting while the polls were still open, that Mr Yeltsin was suffering from angina.

A presidential adviser, Sergei Karaganov, pointed out that the Russian word "angina", which

President's illness, means "sore throat" or "tonsillitis". That said, a sore throat appeared to be the last of Mr Yelisin's worries as he spoke clearly, if woodenly, in a one-minute address filmed by Kremlin cameras at

Barvikha.

"All of you, absolutely all of you, come along, don't forget your duty," the President said, exhorting citizens to vote. Explaining his failure to cast his ballot in Moscow, he joked: "I have already fulfilled the plan. have already fulfilled the plan for talking to the press by 120 per cent." Whilst millions of provincial voters appeared un-concerned by the President's fragile health, to those in the

had been used to define the know in Moscow and St Petersburg it was a more disturbing business. That is principally because of the rise to promi-nence of Mr Lebed. He has made it clear he sees

himself as Mr Yeltsin's natural successor and has shocked reformist opinion with a series of bellicose threats to shake up Russian society. If Mr Yeltsin, back in office, were to become seriously incapacitated, Mr Lebed would almost certainly make a bid for supreme power.

Mr Zyuganov, whose attempts to raise the health issue in the campaign's last week were largely suppressed by the pro-Yeltsin Russian media, made one last effort to capitalise

yesterday. "Apparently his state of health is not very good. He has not seen any of his closest aides in the last few days," the 52-year-old Communist leader

said, before voting in Moscow. But last night those around the President had more immediate worries on their minds specifically, the turn-out. Polls closed in 14 regions to reveal an estimated turn-out of around 62 per cent, a figure that was low-er than Mr Yeltsin's campaign team could feel comfortable with, but above the dangerous 60-per-cent threshold at which he would stand a significant

chance of defeat. Further reports pages 12,13

of power would pass over in the first instance to Mr Cher-Edward I stole it from the Scots; four nationalist students stole it back; 700 years on the Stone of Scone is going home minute decision by his doctors

Major tries royal magic to appease the Scots

The Scots asked for a parliathem a Stone. The Prime Minister announced yesterday to a staggered House of Commons that, after 700 years, the Stone of Scone is to be taken out of the Coronation Chair in Westminster Abbey and returned to

It belongs, in legal theory, and no doubt in her opinion, to the Queen. But Mr Major stated that she had agreed to the transfer "on the advice of Her Majesty's ministers". The Stone, on which Kings of Scotland were crowned until Edward I of England seized and removed it in 1296, may be placed in Edinburgh Castle later this year.

Politics is often symbolic. But nothing in this British century is stranger, or more touching in its faith in magic, than John Major's attempt to propitiate the Scots by returning the Liath Fail, or Stone of Destiny, after 700 years of exile. And nothing more plainly re-

veals the superstition which still underlies this monarchy than the plaintive half-protest issued vesterday by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster Abbey. To them, the "symbolic and emotional significance" of the Stone, its "intimate association with the Sacrament of Coronation and its religious associations raise an agony of anxiety in "those who are advising the Queen in this matter The working of a mighty spell seems to be endangered, a reaction as unpolitical - and indeed non-Christian - as the old myth that the monarchy will fall when the ravens of the Tower of London perish.

Edward I was much more rational when he took the Stone, together with archives and holy relics, in 1296. Like a Victorian conqueror in West Africa, calculating that removing the sacred stool of a king would demoralise his subjects and cow them into accepting foreign rule, he thought that this would break Scottish morale. It had seemed to work when the Crown of King Arthur and a fragment of the True Cross. were seized from Wales in 1284.

ESSAY · ·

By Neal Asea

But this time Edward w wrong. The Wars of Independence followed, culminating in the crushing Scottish victory at Bannockburn in 1314. Edward's grandson acknowledged the mistake and, at the Treaty of Northampton in 1328, agreed to give the Stone back. But the London mob rioted in protest, and the Stone remained in Westminster Abbey.

There it stayed, a mysterious. great slab which was once thought to be basalt but now seems to be a sort of limestone, until a group of young Scottish patriots, led by Iain Hamilton, broke into the Abbey and took it back to Scotland at the New Year of 1950. When the tidings came on the BBC, a vivid flash of exultation ran all over Scotland - one of those instances when everyone remembers where they were when they heard the news.

More than a year later, after negotiations which are still obscure, the Stone was laid in the ruined Abbey of Arbroath for the seekers to find, and returned to Westminster. Nobody was prosecuted. Some believe that only a fake Stone was returned, and that the real one still lies somewhere hidden in Northern darkness. But Michael Forsyth, the Secretary of State of Scotland, promised yesterday that Xray tests, to be published shortly, will show that the slab on which the young Queen Elizabeth sat to be crowned two. years later was, and temains, the

real thing. Talk about "the recent of cultural heritage" is beside the point. It is all too clear that this lump of rock is anything but dead heritage. This heritage is alive, and, in England even more than in Scotland, sail radiates an awesome charge of power and legitimacy. The origins of the Stone are duknown. The medieval Scots invented fancies: that it was the stone which had been facob's pillew when he dreamed of the ladder to heaven and saw angels as cending and descending,

Section 2

CHESS .

ARTS

EDUCATION

LISTENCS

TICKET OFFER

TV & RADIO-



But Just provoked them further Photograph: Andrew Cooper / Ronald Grant Archive

brought to Scotland by the mythical Prince Gathelus from Egypt: It seems to have been takeneto Scone, near Perth, by King Kenneth MacAlpine in the 9th sentiny. Stones sometimes played a part in the Dark Age ceremonics for mangarating kings, together with bardic

recitations of ancestry.
Stationy less primitive is the be trundled back to Westminster for future Coronations. is not just superstitious fear that the citual may not be ef-tected without it, although that

til the 13th century were to re-main north of the Border, there would be strong pressure for a separate Scouts. Coronation of all future Bussel, monarchs.

The Helphings fell into this trap. The Emperors of Austria-

Hungary also became, by marriage and conquest, kings of Bohemia and Hungary, and there were coronation ceremonies in Prague and Budapest as well as Vienna. The effect of this was to preserve the sense of injured pride in those two kingdoms, later to develop into full-blown nationalism.

will the return of the Stone, an idea put to Mr Major earli-one of which the Kings er this year by the ingenious Mr Forsyth, appease the Scottish Will the return of the Stone,

hunger for self-government? It is all by to have the opposite ef-less time, it might have when Sir Walter Scott discovered the ancient regalia of Scotland in a box in Edinburgh Castle, romantic excite-ment seemed to strengthen loyalty to the Hanoverians rather than weaken it.

Today, 170 years later, national feeling will only take strength from the righting of an old wrong. As Sir David Steel said in the Commons vesterday, most people in Scotland "want not just the symbol but the substance of the return of democratic control". This Stone is going to roll a long way before it comes to rest.



look the stone (right) in 1950. A year later it was 'found' in Arbroath

Finders keepers in a world game of marbles

beautiful. But they are now

recognised to be much older

One of the most unusual

artefacts to be disputed is the

Quetzalcopilli, the head-dress of

the Aztec emperor Montezuma,

than the Homeric era.

REBECCA FOWLER

It is the world's biggest game of marbles. For centuries nation's have plundered each other's most beloved artefacts, including the Stone of Destiny, only to daim "finders keepers" when

asked to return them. The list of lost goods covers the spectrum of history, from a manuscript containing the old-est sentences written in Welsh to an Aztec feathered headdress, jewels once thought to belong to Helen of Troy, and a collection of Norse chess pieces.

Among the greatest boarders of all is the British Museum. The most disputed artefacts to be plonked in Bloomsbury are the Elgin Marbles, which once adorned the Parthenon in Athens. Lord Elgin bought them from a Turkish overlord in 1801, and sold them to the museum in 1816 for £35,000. Glenys Kinnock, the Labour MEP, has joined calls for the marbles to be returned, and in return hopes to see Welsh

hands for 1,000 years. For the most part the artefacts are priceless. The world's most valuable chess set, dug up on the Isle of Lewis in 1801, recently became the subject of a custody battle between the islanders and the British Museum. Both kings are in-

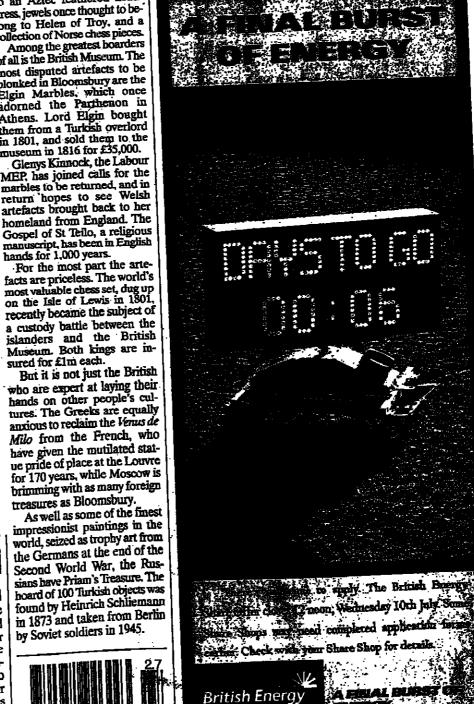
sured for £1m each. But it is not just the British who are expert at laying their hands on other people's cultures. The Greeks are equally anxious to reclaim the Venus de Milo from the French, who have given the mutilated statue pride of place at the Louvre for 170 years, while Moscow is brimming with as many foreign treasures as Bloomsbury.

As well as some of the finest impressionist paintings in the world, seized as trophy art from the Germans at the end of the Second World War, the Russians have Priam's Treasure. The hoard of 100 Turkish objects was found by Heinrich Schliemann in 1873 and taken from Berlin by Soviet soldiers in 1945.



which has been in Vienna for At first, Schliemann believed 100 years. It is made from 450 they were the personal jewels of feathers of the quetzal and ex-Helen of Troy, and adorned his young Greek wife with the most

tinct cotinga bird. Mexican Indians danced outside the presidential palace last year to encourage official action. The Austrians maintain the plumage "would rot in the tropics" and claim it never belonged to the emperor anyway.



QUICKLY

ming more appet off by an Stated by the

restrictive helped to

MPs vote for rise The House of Commons will

neni week spurn a Government call for pay restraint with a free wore which will bring a 26 per cent pay rise for MPs. Backbench MPs will endorse a recommendation from the Se-

nior Salaries Review Body that they receive a rise of more than £170 a week, moving them up from £34,085 to £43,000.

Woman to run ROH A woman looks certain to take over the running of the Royal Opera House, in London, for the first time. Four high-profile women in the arts are being considered by the ROH board to take over as general director when Sir Jeremy Isaacs retires next year. It is understood that the nature of the post is likely

Share Offer

BA strike spells chaotic summer

BARRIE CLEMENT Labour Editor

Hundreds of thousands of holiday-makers and business travellers face a summer of chaos after British Airways pilots voted overwhelmingly to strike in protest at a pay and productivity offer.

The British Airline Pilots' Association is expected to opt for a highly damaging indefinite strike from 16 July following a 90 per cent vote for action. This would be the first major all-out strike since the industrial action by miners in 1984-85

Both sides last night regis-

death

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR

at Oxenholme.

proached the two platform staff.

He started talking to the station workers, saw his sister struggling with a train door and asked them to help get her off.

Mr Kelly said afterwards:

"As I showed them where she was, they just ignored me and

the smaller of the two blew his

whistle very loudly and the

Mrs Fraser had to go to Pen-

rith, the next stop, and then re-

turn on another train. By this

time, she was taken ill and had

to be brought by wheelchair

from one platform to another, and then back to Oxenholme.

Three others who had also

failed to get off the train at Ox-

enholme because of the door

atready dying."

tered their readiness to enter

BA said that it had drawn up "contingency" plans to operate as many flights as possible with the help of an estimated 20 per cent of flight crews who are not members of Balpa.

The strike vote came as London endured another 24-hour stoppage by tube drivers which closed two-thirds of the system. London Underground claimed that some members of Aslef, the train drivers' union, worked during the action. There were no signs that talks were imminent in an attempt to solve the dispute over working hours.

for next Monday and 16 July, when the BA action could start.

Threats of industrial action also emerged in the "overground" rail network as the RMT transport union called ballots for strikes among its 9,000 members. The union is disputing productivity pay-ments on the East Coast Mainline, Cross Country, Great Western, South Central, South Eastern Trains and Mersey Rail

Electrics. Negotiations over rest periods have broken down at Central Trains, Regional Railways, North London Railways, Scot-

Further walkouts are planned Rail, South Wales and West and Thames Trains.

At the Royal Mail, the postal executive at the Communication Workers Union is to decide today whether to press ahead

with more 24-hour strikes. The dispute at BA, however is potentially the most serious because of the likely decision to call an all-out stoppage.
The airline has offered its

3,600 flight deck employees a 3.6 per cent pay increase this year and a rise of 0.5 per cent above inflation next year.

Lower-paid crews who operate out of Gatwick have been offered an additional 10 per to reject the offer.

Management and uniou also clashed over the present pay of flight crew. Balpa put the av-erage figure at £50,000 a year. but the company said it was nearer £75,000, withsenior pilots earning more than

£100,000. Chris Darke, general secretary of Balpa, said the pilots were simply seeking the same deal as other BA employees. He pointed out that the 94 per cent turnout among the 3,000 Balpa members was among the highest ever recorded under the pre-sent legislation. Out of 2,980

cent, but the union is expected to reject the offer. ballot papers returned, 2,687 voted for a strike, with just 292

Robert Ayling, chief exec-utive of the airline, said action would not be in the interests of the union, its members, the customers or the country.

"It seems to us regrettable that a responsible union should use a threat to damage the interests of the company in order to pursue objectives which are

He said that some 60 per cent of BA passengers travelled for non-business purposes, and a stoppage would "seriously in-convenience a lot of people".

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

Dritish doctors have Identified a new burn syndrome
Deaused by lightning, following one of the largest
multiple strikes anywhere in the world, which occurred in
Kend. An average of between 12 and 20 people are
injured by lightning in Britain each year, but 17 were but
by a single lightning bolk as they sheligred under trees at a
football match in September 1925.
Doctors at Si Andrews Hospital, Billericay, found that
10 had a distinctive pattern of burns on the soles of them
feet and the tips of their toes. Christened the "Tip-The
syndrome, Mr Palamy Saad Fahmy, formerly a registrar in
plastic surgery at St Andrews, said the burn patterns
suggests that a lightning bolt affects small peripheral
nerves and blood vessels. The patterns showed a
remarkable range of injuries. Lightning strikes have the
potential for multi-system matries, the extent of which
had not previously been recognised. But all 17 victims had
recovered and the long-term risks to their health were
minimal, he added Dir Ham.

Water quality improved last year, the Government's Drinking Water Inspectorate reported yesterday. Only one in 200 of the 3,2 million tests carried out by the 31 water companies in 1995 failed to comply with national and EU standards. Overall, higher than acceptable levels

Yorkshire Water, under fire for its performance in last year's drought, has the greatest number of enforcement actions pending against it. Seven incidents involving contravention of quality standards and failure to meet sampling requirements are cited by the Inspectorate, which only brings enforcement actions when a water supplier "is contravening [standards] and is likely to contravene again". Karen Bakker

of iron, lead and pesticides were the most common reason

Manchester is to receive a £21m ald package to begin the restoration of its bomb damaged city centre, the Deputy Prime Minister Michael Heseltine. said yesterday. It will include £20m to be injected after a

said yesterday. It will include £20m to be injected after a reallocation of European funds and £1m to help prepare a master plan for the redevelopment.

Mr Heseltine announced the creation of a city centre task force, under the chairmanship of industrialist Sir Alan Cockshaw, to oversee the project, following the massive bombing more than two weeks ago which was estimated to have caused damage of £500m. He said owners of the most badly bomb damaged buildings, including Marks & Spencer and P&O, operators of the giant Arndale Centre, had been involved in negotiations.

Sir James Goldsmith, the billionaire financier of the Referendum Party, yesterday focused for Euro-sceptics to rebel before the general election. He warned that actions not words would be required for his Referendum Party to withdraw its threat to stand against them in the next election, and which could cost some their

"I was asked today what criteria would be used by us as to whether we field candidates. We have to look at th facts, what people have done as opposed to what they say We will want more than just commitments but acts." Sir James told a Westminister press gallery huncheon. His remarks will infuriate John Major, who has been told that the Euro-sceptics have privately agreed to a ceasefire until after the election. Coin Brown.

Afresh challenge to the armed fonces han on gays hand leabins got the go ahead in the High Court vestentily. Giving leave for Terrence Perkins, a 27-year old homesching! to seek judicial review. Mr Jostice Sedley said. "It userguable that sexual orientation discrimination is caught by the [EU] Equal Treatment Directive."

Mr Perkins was a Royal Navy leading medical assistant with exemplary service until his discharge in October 1995 following a tip-off about his sexuality to the Military Police. His case follows the landmark European Court of Justice ruling in a case concerning a transsexual P, where

Justice ruling in a case concerning a transsexual, P, where the court held that the Equal Treatment Directive, which outlaws sexual discrimination, should be given a broad

British Rail pensioners are £5.5m richer after 20 Old Masters belonging to their pension fund sold well above the £4.7m estimate at Sotheby's in London. The top lot was a builtight scene by Goya, which made £2.5m. Death of a Picador was part of a series painted by the artist to pay his medical bills after a near fatal illness. It dated from 1793. The painting, executed in oil on timplate, was expected to fetch between £1m and £1.5m.

Other works in the British Rail Pension Fund collection included a panoramic landscape by Dutchman Philip Koninck, painted around 1650, which sold to the London dealer Robert Noortman for £925,000. Koninck, who trained in Rembrandt's circle, has long been regarded as an important figure in the development of Dutch landscape painting. David Lister (Arts News, page 9)



Power group hopes for windfall tax reprieve

Westminster Correspondent

National Grid, the electricity supply group, is hopeful that after talks with Labour politicians. it will be among those excluded from the party's windfall tax aimed at hitting the profits of the privatised utilities.

Peter Gavin, National Grid's not opening came back with her. Mr Kelly says that Margaret was already poorly: "She was very shaky when she got back corporate affairs director, said vesterday, they had put a "pow-erful case" to Labour to be exempt from the tax.

and I realise now that she was He was speaking the day after The Independent revealed A few days later, she was in that Labour was having to revise its windfall tax plans after intensive care in hospital and she died on June 22. Doctors say talks between senior figures in she had suffered a heart attack. the party and several major util-When Mr Kelly wrote to ny companies, including British InterCity West Coast, which is

responsible for the station. The report provoked a furi-oes political row with the Gov-Mike Kilgour, station services manager at Carlisie, replied ernment saving it proved what that the signal had already been hey always thought, that the tax. intended to raise E3bn, would given to depart by the time Mr. not work.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chan-

Kelly spoke to the staff. There is intense pressure on rail staff to ensure that trains decellor of the Exchequer, said: "We looked at the tax when it part on time because train operating companies can be fined appeared in one of the news-In Railtrack for any delays.

wouldn't raise the money or if it did it would cause great injustice and create damage to

Mr Clarke added: "It won't raise £3 billion unless you're going to do tremendous damage. It was sold as a painless tax - a way of taxing the companies that provide our gas, our electricity, our water and our telecommunications." The Chancellor continued: "The implication was nobody was going to pay except some fat cats mysteriously in the

hackground." National Grid said it had been forced to fund a £50 rebate. for every electricity consumer at its flotation last December. "We're highly geared as a result, and we don't warrant any windfull tax," sajd Mr Gavin, A spokesman for Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, said his boss had never met anyone from British Gas to talk about the windfall tax. However, the Independent never made such an allegation, Richard Giordano, the British Gas chairman. the Independent understands,

fall tax and its impact on the compount was raised.

In the manifesto document published today, said Mr Brown's spokesman, the party "will reaffirm the commitment for a windfall levy on the privatised utilities."

The document will say: "to pay for these proposals we will ve a one-off windfall levy on the excess profits of the privatised utilities which will pay for our carefully costed deal for young people and unem-ployed.

Labour accused lobbying firms of whipping up a case that their clients should be excluded from the tax. "The privatised utilities have made £50bn profit in the last ten years," said Mr Brown. "They are now spend-ing hundreds of thousands of pounds on lobbvists in a vain attempt to change Labour's mind."

The Shadow Chancellor said he had now instructed his colleagues "to tell these lobby firms that they are wasting their time and the privatised utilities papers and we rapidly discov- has met a senior member of Mr are wasting their money."

Homesick life of army recruits

Defence Correspondent

Half of the Army's recruits now come from broken homes, it was revealed yesterday, the first time a detailed portrait of Army recruits has ever been released.

Most recruits live with their mothers, only 54 per cent of whom are still married. The worst problem recruits encounter when they join the Army is homesickness. They miss their mothers most of all girlfriends and hoyfriends come second, followed closely

by pets. Some 59 percent smoke, an average of 13 cigarettes a day. The 84 per cent drink get through an average of 11 pints a week. And although they are more interested in sport than others of their age group, they are not fit enough.

The Army announced yesterday that it was extending its basic recruit training to cope with soldiers whose lifestyle has given them the "worst pos-sible start to Army life". Last year the Army hoped to recruit

aged only 11,000. The pool from which recruits into the ranks are drawn has been getting smaller, and is increasingly focused on a narrow band of youngsters from relatively de-prived backgrounds - which may help explain the thuggish behaviour of some soldiers, in

spite of military discipline. Many of the young people who might have joined the army and risen swiftly to become sergeants and warrant officers now go to university

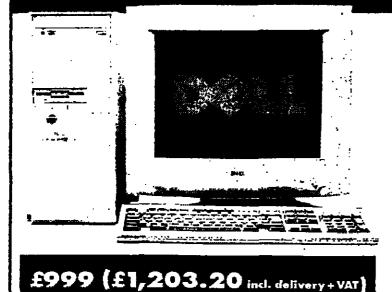
Half of those who join have a friend in the Army and 12 percent a brother. But generally "peer group pressure" dis-courages people from joining. Lieutenant Colonel Richard Ouicke, the commander of the Winchester training regiment,

outlined the problems. The trainer wearer, the couch potato, the lack of competitive sports, the lack of any sports, poor diet, an environment where commitment and loyalty to the workplace is becoming less and fashionable."

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

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are born,

not made

German mogul scoops the World Cup

MATHEW HORSMAN Media Editor

A reclusive German billionaire mogul, barely known outside his own country, yesterday scooped up the non-US television rights to the World Cup in 2002 and 2006 for a record \$2.25m, boosting football's leading event to Olympic status and breaking a 25-year hold on the rights by European public-

The bid by the Bavarian media baron Leo Kirch, one of the world's leading holders of movie and television rights, was "absolutely mind-boggling," an

governing body, said last night, adding that it marks the first time that a rights "broker", rather than broadcasters themselves, has won the lucrative

country by country will now start, with both the BBC and IIV obliged to deal with Mr Kirch for the rights in the UK Mr Kirch, heavily built and nearly blind from diabetes, bear

The scramble to secure rights

bids by the European Broadcasting Union, which includes the BBC, and IMG, the sport agency owned by Mark Mc-Cormack. The loss by the EBU

iunes of public-service broadcasters, who have been forced increasingly to compete for rights with private companies. But Fifa's general secretary,

Sepp Blatter, said yesterday that Fifa would ensure "ordinary viewers" will be able to see the games, and had retained a veto over any subsequent deals on rights in different countries. "This is our responsibility to make sure that they see it, it is

our duty," he said. Fifa will be guaranteed at least \$1bn for the 2002 event, to be co-hosted by Japan and South Korea. Any additional

partner, the marketing company ISL. That dwarfs the

\$183.5m in TV rights paid for the 1998 World Cup in France, and confirms football's status as Olympic Games.

sparked by the growing market for pay television, and the promise of saturation coverage once 500 digital television channels are launched in Europe, probably within two years. It is through the pay-TV market that Mr Kirch hopes to make his around 5 million. His 40 com-

insider at Fifa, football's world was a further blow to the fortween Fifa and Mr Kirch and his coverage of the matches, on a pay-per-view basis, in addition to selling the live rights to terrestrial broadcasters.

Mr Kirch, 68, is one of Germany's most successful and sean event nearly equal to the cretive, media giants. He owns 25 per cent of Premiere, the The explosion in the value of television sport rights has been nel. 10 per cent of Mediaset, the company belonging to the Italian magnate and politician Silvio Berlusconi, and 37 per cent of Axel Springer Verlag, pub-lishers of Die Welt and Bild, Germany's biggest-selling daily tabloid with a circulation of

panies worldwide have assets of 7 billion deutschmarks.

He is a devout Catholic, and a close confidant of the German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, but also owns Sati TV network, which broadcasts soft porn.

The son of a wine grower, he made his fortune buying and selling rights to movies and television. His connections to Italy extend back to the 1950s, when he bought the rights to Fellini's La Strada, He now controls the rights to 15,000 movies and 50,000 hours of television, which he intends as fodder for a new digital pay-TV network to



Leo Kirch: Bid \$2.2bn for TV

CHARLES ARTHUR Science Editor

New research has revealed that dyslexia is definitely due to differences in brain function which exist before birth.

The findings, by a British researcher, show that the disorder is linked to a subtle inability to process visual information about moving objects.

Scientists researching dyslexia, which affects an estimated two million people in the UK, now think it may be caused by a general inability to process fast-changing data from any of

the senses.

The difference discovered in the latest work is so small that it makes no difference in other everyday activities. But the method used to find it could allow dyslexia to be diagnosed without reading tests, using Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), which can look at activity within the brain.

In a three-year study, Guinevere Eden, of the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, used MRI to study the activity of a particular part of the brain's visual processing system, called V5/MT.

The MRI system spots changes in the flow of blood in the brain, so it highlights any area that is particularly active. Six dyslexics and eight peo-

ple with normal reading abilities were compared as they watched fast-moving dots on a screen. In the normal subjects, V5/MT showed heightened activity; in the dyslexics, it did not. When the same people were shown stationary dots, the differences disappeared. The results are published in the

science journal Nature today. Dr Eden pointed out that her work does not show that this difference is the cause of dyslexia. "This really indicates that dyslexia is a biological abnormality, not the result of upbringing or education. It also shows that there's some involvement of the visual system in dyslexia." She noted that the V5/MT area is fully formed before birth, showing that dyslex-

ia must be innate. The reduced activity in the visual cortex does not mean that dyslexics have problems fol-lowing words on the printed page, said Chris Firth, of the Institute of Neurology in London.

"The problem described is very small. It wouldn't directly affect the ability to read. You could only detect it in the lab." But there may be related

problems with the auditory corex, which processes signals from the ears, he suggest Dr Eden intends to study that area of brain function next. Dr Firth believes that dyslex-

ics might all have more deepdata, either from eyes or ears. Dyslexics have problems in detecting whether words or let-

ters rhyme - a process which depends on recognising changes in the frequency of syllables. The British Dyslexia Association welcomed the results.

"It should show the doubters, of whom there are too many, that it's not just the invention of frustrated middle-class parents who are disappointed at their children's performance in school," said a spokesman. "It's very welcome."

Mission possible: red tape cut to boost film industry

LOUISE JURY

It looked like a mission impossible: making a Hollywood blockbuster in the heart of London without making the movie-makers mad.

The British capital was notoriously difficult. Dublin, Prague, Berlin - all have welcomed film crews to their heart. But London's reputation was for infuriating red tape.

Until now. The blockbuster film, Mission Impossible, has marked a turning point. When Tom Cruise and

Kristin Scott Thomas, the film's stars, arrive at the gala premiere in Leicester Square tonight, their glitzy smiles will be matched only by the beam of satisfaction on the face of Lon-don Film Commissioner Christabel Albery.

She has spearheaded efforts to cajole and persuade police, councils and anyone who cares to listen of the vital economic importance of making London a film-makers' paradise. It appears to be working.

The Saint, starring Val Kilmer, has been filmed this year in corners of the capital from the City to Earls Court. One Hundred and One Dalmatians was shot in Trafalgar and Leicester Squares, St James's Park and on the banks of the

In Mission Impossible, which opens nationwide tomorrow.a helicopter swoops past Tower Bridge, Tom Cruise runs through hosepipe-generated rain at Liverpool Street station and regulars will recognise the Anchor pub near Southwark

Cathedral Paul Hitchcock, executive producer of both Mission Impossible and The Saint, said: "We've found that things are much easier now than they

"Nothing is perfect, but Christopher Brock, the location manager, feels that the boroughs and the police have been much more helpful than in the past. We've used numerous locations, and to think it's all gone very well is a compliment to

London." The praise is dear to Ms Albery's heart. More than three years ago, she first dreamt of a film commission to smooth the way for the movie industry. Last year, she won a £100,000 government grant and this autumn she plans the official

But she and her small team, based in a former pub off the Portobello Road, have already produced a code of practice and helped more than 40 feature



films with inquiries on everything from locations to techni-

"I watched (the action film) Die Hard With A Vengeance to see what New York does to support film-making," Ms Albery said. "And what they do is staggering. I think if it is possible in a busy city like New York, we should try to make it happen

Mission Impossible, a remake of the hit Sixties' American television show, might not on insisting that, as long as they

have come to the city without London Film Commission per-

"When they were deciding where to shoot it, they were quite keen not to shoot it here, Ms Albery said. The makers had seen old council rules about filming in London and they arrived at the meeting "absolutely horrified".

It was a very testing meeting. They came up with all these demands and I just went

gave us notice, we could sched-

It worked. "When they left, they definitely had a different

feeling about London." Bill Neilly, who has liaised with filming in the borough of Southwark since television's The Bill first arrived on its doorstep eight years ago, said relations had certainly proved in recent years. "We give

them as free a hand as we Maurice Pillinger, from

Westminster council, said knowing the London Film Commis-sion was on hand if a problem

emerged gave them the confi-dence to be flexible. When the producers of One Hundred and One Dalmatians wanted to film in central London, the council had doubts about the motley collection of production vehicles. "All the lawyers live in Westminster everybody knows how to com-

plain," Mr Pillinger said. So he asked the film compablue and white. There were no complaints. The capital is still losing films

to rivals like Ireland which provide generous tax incentives, but Ms Albery said a number were now taking advantage of the newly-forged helpfulness of the

Film-makers shoot where they feel they are welcome, where things are made easy for them," she said. And London is





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PM's new pay to rise to £143,000 a year

Political Editor

The House of Commons will next week spurn a Government call for pay restraint, with a free vote that is confidently expected to carry a 26 per cent pay tise for MPs

Backbench MPs will endorse a recommendation from the Senior Salaries Review Body, to be published today, that they receive a rise of more than £170 a week, moving them up from £34,085 to £43,000, backdated to the start of this month.

As the Independent reported yesterday, some MPs will lose on the roundabouts what they win on the salary swings. The review body report calls for the high-rate mileage allowance of 74.1 pence for 2.300cc-plus cars to be cut to the existing lower

Projected pay rises

Prime Minister: Now £84,217, recommended £143,000 Cabinet ministers: £69,651, recommended £103,000 The Speaker: £69,651, recommended £103,000.

Cabinet ministers in the House of Lords:

£57,161, recommanded £77,963

Leader of the Opposition: £64,167, recommended £98,000

Ministers of State: £56,785, recommended £74,125

Junior ministers: £49,283, recommended £66,623 Backbench MPs: £34,085, recommended £43,000

account, this change would £69,651 to £103,000, an inwipe out the pay rise. But John Major is expected

to urge the House to set a public example and exercise restraint in its vote next week. The Prime Minister's office said last night that public sector pay policy was based on effort, merit and affordability. Those criteria will certainly

he applied by the Cabinet to the rate of 47.2p a mile.

Some MPs were calculating body on their own salaries. that, once tax was taken into which would rocket from

t is gross double standards if

crease of 48 per cent, to take effect after the election. But even that figure was capped when it came to the office of Prime Minister, with the report urging that whoever wins the next election should take a rise of 70 per cent, from £84,217

to £143 000. Other recommended rises include a move from £69,651 to £103,000 for the Speaker, and £98,000, up nearly £34,000, for the Leader of the Opposition.

The proposals brought instant condemnation from union leaders and left-wing MPs. Barry Reamsbottom, general secretary of the Civil and Public Service Union, said: "I am not against MPs and ministers getting the rate for the job. But

they don't apply the same prin-ciples to those they employ." Chris Mullin, left-wing MP for Sunderland South, told the Independent that he would table amendments opposing an inflation-busting pay deal.

But those views left many Labour MPs spluttering with rage. Sir Terence Higgins, the senior Tory backbencher, said: "Over the last 30 years, there has been no real-terms increase in pay for MPs, and . . . Ministers pay has halved." Sir Terence said the report represented a welcome attempt to



Suffer the little children: John Crozier and his son Jack, 3, whose sister Emma died in the Dunblane tragedy, arrive at the House of Commons to support the "Snowdrop" petition calling for tougher firearms controls

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Engine Immobiliser	induded	induded	induded	induded	induded	
Metallic Paint	induded	£230	£225	£249	£250	
Air Conditioning	induded	\$470	£875	\$1,825	£1,445	
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Challenge to **Tories over** Scottish vote

STEPHEN GOODWIN Parliamentary Correspondent

John Major was challenged yesterday to say whether the Conservatives would accept the verdict if the Scottish people voted in a referendum to set up an Edinburgh parliament.

In a trenchant defence of Labour's promise of referendums on devolution, Lord Irvine of Lairg, the shadow Lord Chancellor and one of Tony Blair's closest advisers, said he was confident of securing a

powerful "Yes" vote.

"If the Scottish people say 'Yes" in the referendum, will the Conservative Party accept the will of the Scottish people, or will they go on opposing devolution?" he asked, as peers began a two-day debate on the

leader of the Liberal Democrat peers, warned of recreating the troubles of Ireland at the beginning of the century if the 'settled wish" of the Scottish

people was defied. It would be an experience to have at the back of our minds," the former Labour Cabinet minister told peers.

The Government staged the debate in the hope of wrongfooting Labour over its plans for a "Tartan tax-raising Parliament". Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor and himself a Scot, said Mr Blair's a parliament with tax varying proposals contained serious ws and risked breaking up the

United Kingdom. He told peers the difference principle. It signals no weak-in size of the nations of the UK ening of commitment. On the made balanced devolution impossible: Scottish legislation

in a second chamber and in vestment would suffer.

"It is crucial that the risks of devolution are recognised. I do not believe it is satisfactory to pledge a referendum to be held before a devolution Bill is proposed," Lord Mackay said. Scots would be voting before

knowing how difficulties, particularly financial ones, would

But Lord Irvine, in a speech praised by Lord Jenkins as one of the most powerful he had heard in the House, said the Conservative Party had become as autocratic as it was remote: "A large part of the malaise that grips our country stems from a profound disillusion with its system of government."

Labour believes the Government is over-centralised, he titutions of democ Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, racy should be brought closer to the people they represented There was a contradiction at the core of Conservative thinking -"Yes to subsidiarity in Europe No to subsidiarity in the UK.

Lord Irvine cited enthusias tic support in the early 1970s for which we would be foolish not a Scottish parliament with tax raising powers from Margaret Thatcher, the Scottish Secretary Michael Forsyth and his pre decessors Ian Lang and Malcolm Rifkind. "How the vision of youth can fall prey to crab-

by middle age," he quipped. Reaffirming that Labour powers of up to 3p in the pound, he told peers: "The referendum decision is right in contrary, the purpose of the referendum is to demonstrate the would no longer be scrutinised demand for devolution."

Army families will be safe

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY Defence Correspondent

The Government's plans to lease 60,000 Ministry of Defence-owned married quarters will not disrupt service life as MPs and families feared, senior officers said yesterday.

But last night the Defence Secretary, Michael Portillo, was caught up in a fresh row over the £1.6bn sale when it was revealed that £4.4m has already

been spent on consultants' fees. So as the senior officers' announced their support for the revised scheme, Mr Portillo faced a renewed Tory backbench rebellion. Despite threats of defeat in

the Lords and Commons, the Defence Secretary is deter-Air Marshal Peter Squire, the mined to go ahead with the sale. MOD's deputy chief of staff for And there was more alarm vesterday after Labour was told that families at RAF Finningley, near Doncaster, had been giv-

with the closure of the base. David Clark, Labour's shadow defence secretary, said the purchaser for 999 years. £4.4m paid in fecs "would have been better spent on forces'

en notices to quit their homes

families than consultants". But the chief of defence staff, said the political furore around the sale has obscured the real

are now happy that the assur-ances to be made to tenants are

satisfactory.

The changes made to the Government's plan have concentrated on preserving the unity of the married quarter "paich" - the estates where the families live - and preventing the purchaser from selling sections unless strict requirements for providing alternative accommodation are met.

The "patch" is critically important to the services, in terms of lifestyle and also operationally. One of the officers said: "Soldiers go away to war. They leave behind nervous families. They can support each other in a way they couldn't if they were

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programmes and personnel, said the purchaser will immediately gain the freehold of the 2.500 homes which are currently surplus. The MOD will retain freehold of the rest of the estate, but will lease it to the

In the meantime, any sites which become surplus will be

handed over to the lessee. Of the £1.6bn sale, the MOD Field Marshal Sir Peter Inge, will get £100m, which will be used to improve the quality of houses. Air Marshal Squire said issues, and since alterations service families will benefit as have been made, senior officers a direct result of the scheme.

Blair's image: Political opponents and satirists alike have found the Labour leader an awkward target to hit

Tories turn fire on gurus of the left

COLIN BROWN Chief Political Correspondent

Having attacked Tony Blair's wife, and his cardigan, Conservative critics are now targeting the Labour leader's mind.

The Conservative assault on the Labour leader will be in-tensified next week with a sustained attack on Blair's "gurus" by David Willetts, a Government minister and former head of the Centre for Policy Studies, a right-wing think tank.

Cherie Booth was targeted by the party chairman, Brian Mawhinney, the cardigan Tony Blair wore in his Islington garden for the photograph on the front page of the *Independent* drew criticism. Mr Willetts now plans to take apart the philo-sophy underpinning "Blairism". One of his main targets will

be Peter Mandelson, the style guru behind Labour's new image, who also happens to be his Labour Shadow, as the spokesman on public service.

Mr Willetts, a former mem-ber of Baroness Thatcher's Downing Street policy unit, has named the political commentators he believes have changed attitudes which could help Tony Blair to win the battle of ideas

challenge the eight "gurus" who have "created an environ-

failure to maintain the intellectual high ground since the demise of radical Thatcherism. In addition to Mr Mandel-

son's work with Roger Liddle, The Blair Revolution, Mr Willetts's targets are: Will Hutton, author of The State We're In; John Gray, author of the Demos pamphlet After Social Democracy: Simon Jenkins, former editor of the Times, author of Accountable to None - the Tory Nationalisation of Britain; John Kay, an economist at the London Business School, who wrote Foundations of Corporate Success; David Marquand, former leading light of the SDP and author of *The Unprincipled* Society, a critique of Thatcherite individualism; Frank Field, Labour MP and an advocate of reform of the welfare state; and the editor of the Indepen-

ish democratic institutions).

Mr Kay is targeted by Mr

Willetts as the "father" of the
theory of the stakeholder economy. It was after he had explained his philosophy in a private meeting that the Labour leader made his Singapore

Blair to win the battle of ideas at the next general election.

His 26,000-word pamphlet, to be published on Monday through the Conservative Political Centre, questions the acceptance of Blairite thought.

The Tory MP for Havant has told friends that he intends to challenge the eight "gurus" who have "created an environ-" challenge the eight "gurus" who have "created an environment in which Blairism can flourish".

The seriousness with which the Conservatives are treating the new climate for a Blairite the new climate for a Blair the new climate for a Blair



Satire and the great cardy challenge

REBECCA FOWLER

After the cardigan came the smile, then there were the sticky-out ears, and, of course, Cherie. Tony Blair has become the satirists' nightmare, as they struggled to find any defining traits from the Labour leader's bland appearance, flawless family life and "estate agent" personality.

But the best is yet to come,

according to cartoonists, im-personators and comedians personators and comedians book and knew all the words to the hymns. He's also that mid-across Britain, who believe that the hymns. He's also that mid-and the Independent, said: The cardigan was about companies Specially the next passed me by kind of bloke. The cardigan was about companies Specially the next passed me by kind of bloke. The cardigan was about companies Specially the next passed me by kind of bloke. The cardigan was about companies of the Independent, said: The cardigan was about companies of the Independent, said: The cardigan was about companies of the Independent, said: The cardigan was about companies of the Independent, said: The cardigan was about companies of the Independent, said: The cardigan was about companies of the Independent, said: The cardigan was about companies of the Independent, said: The cardigan was about companies of the Independent, said: The cardigan was about companies of the Independent, said: The cardigan was about companies of the Independent, said: The cardigan was about companies of the Independent, said: The cardigan was about companies of the Independent, said: The cardigan was about companies of the Independent, said: The cardigan was about companies of the Independent, said: The cardigan was about companies of the Independent, said: The cardigan was about companies of the Independent, said: The cardigan was about companies of the Independent, said: The cardigan was about companies of the Independent, said: The cardigan was about companies of the Independent was about the Independent was about companies of the Independent was about companies of the Independent was about the Independent was about companies of the Independent was about the Indepen

His image has been so protected by the machine behind him, it's almost Stalinist. There's a sense if you take the piss, you're

airbrushed out of the picture."

He added: "The schoolboy image, with MPs as the prefects, is the most appropriate. He's the boy who would have read Lord of The Flies, written his name in Celtic runes on his exercise book and knew all the words to

John Moloney, the comedian, said: "If Tony Blair was a place, he'd be Milton Keynes." sharpest stabs by keeping his appearance indistinctive, and refusing to allow distinguishing habits or style choices to take root. Most notably, when his cardigan-man image began to stick, Blair's cardy disappeared. It followed the saga of John Major's underpants, when it was al-leged the Prime Minister tucked

> lar design trait was sought for Chris Priestley, an illustrator and cartoonist for the Econo-

his shirt into them, and a simi-

power that we'll really get a hold

He added: "He is determined not to give us anything hard to push against, so we've gone overboard on what there is. He's got no more sticky-out ears than me, but you'd think he was an elephant, and the grin has turned into Jack Nicholson in The Shining.

There have been breakthroughs, however. Blair has posed one of the most bewildering challenges to imperson-ators, who enjoyed a golden era in the 1970s, lied by Mike Yarwood who became almost indistinguishable from Harold Wilson, the Labour Prime

After struggling to capture Blair's physical appearance, Rory Bremner turned instead to the Labour leader's style of

speaking in clipped, catch-phrase terms - "New Labour", "Young Labour". His parody of Blairspeak has paved the way for the the less amusing Tory Clive Anderson, the inter-

viewer, is among those who be-lieve Blair will only lend himself properly to satire when he takes up power. He said: "Maybe we'll all be looking back on Blair the Prime Minister as quite a colourful figure years down the line. Once he's gone, there will probably be someone even

'Save and invest, not tax and spend'

MICHAEL HARRISON AND JOHN RENTOUL

Tony Blair yesterday gave the most explicit pledge yet that a future Labour government would control public spending tightly and avoid penal rates of taxation.

On the eve of publication of the party's Road to the Manifesto programme, he promised that Labour's policy in power would be "save and invest, not tax and

Addressing business leaders at the annual British Chambers of Commerce conference in Birmingham, Mr Blair said: "We will make it clear tomorrow that there can be no question of a short term dash for growth. We want sustainable. non inflationary growth and we will set and hold to an explicit low target for inflation."

The Labour leader also pledged that there would be no return to the "penal" tax rates of the 1970s. "Indeed, we must have a tax system that is internationally competitive and fair and which encourages savings, investment, work and opportunity."

In a show of hands after his speech, the 300 business leaders voted by a ratio of 20 to 1 that Mr Blair would be the next prime minister.

At the heart of Labour's programme in government would be reform of the welfare system, Mr Blair said. The aim would be to reduce the proportion of public spending on the benefits

bill and on education.

He sought again to reassure business worries about the costs of signing the European Social Chapter. He said a Labour Government will insist that any new measure adopted under the Social Chapter promotes fair-

ness, not inflexibility". Earlier, Mr Blair was attacked by John McAllion, who resigned last week over the Labour leader's U-turn on referendums on Scottish and Welsh devolution. Mr McAllion broadened his criticism of Mr Blair, complaining that the premanifesto would not commit a Labour Government to raise the





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Holiday war hots up with deals for '97

The earliest ever launch of next year's summer holidays took place yesterday as leading travel companies brought out their brochures for 1997.

It used to be that you had hardly returned from holiday before next year's breaks were advertised. But this year tour operators have gone one better by revealing them before most people have gone away.

As Airtours and First Choice aging director, said it was selling unveiled their summer 1997 a thousand holidays an hour. As Airtours and First Choice brochures yesterday, two high street travel agents, Going Places and Lunn Poly, offered 13 per cent off next year's) prices

Holiday companies Sunworld and Inspirations also joined in, with Inspiration offering prices 3 per cent lower across the board. However Thomson, currently the UK's biggest holiday company, stood aloof from the fray; it is expected to wait un- away at that point," she said. . til 1 August. First Choice said people booking before 3 August could get savings of up to £150 per couple, with savings of up to £240 per couple on departures to Majorca from Glasgow.

son and £349 for a family of four staying for a week in apartments in Majorca in April 1997. We would have preferred not to launch as early as this, but there are some great bargains,"

Prices start at £119 per per-

said Kevin Ivie, First Choice group marketing director.
Airtours claimed that couples will make an average saving of £14 compared with last year and has slashed £13m off prices altogether. The company says its main reason is to "steal a march on its competitors", and is of-

Big savings are on offer even before this year's holiday is taken, reports

Glenda Cooper ta Brava for £239, or £249 for seven nights in Egypt. Yester-day Peter Rothwell, group man-

Usually the big companies hold off from launching their new brochures until September. The last time they launched early was in August 1994, and that was acknowledged to have been a failure, a spokeswoman for the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) said yester-day. "The August launch in 1994 was not very successful because most people had gone

their first choice.

For travel agents there is go-ing to be a problem as they are still selling holidays for summer '96. The agents are meant to have a reasonable knowledge of the products on offer, so if they are going to be selling summer '96, winter '96 and summer '97 it's going to be an awful lot of work," she added. "People have been suggesting, does it mean there are publicated. does it mean there are problems in the industry? I don't think so. I think it shows what competition there is among the biggest

The companies are trying to target families, who tend to book early. Airtours said yesterday that the uncertain economic climate has split would-be holiday-makers into "haves" and "may haves"

fering seven nights in the Cos-What's in the brochures

What Alchours is offering inclusive 14 right holidays in the Committee Republic, £619 (weddings in the Republic, £98 estra); (we weeks in Frenda, £955 (children, £195)



Quick-fire questions to test maths

FRAN ABRAMS Education Correspondent

4.4.

Mental arithmetic tests for all pupils have been announced by

ministers as part of a revised school-testing regime. In future, all 11 and 14-yearolds may have to answer a se- tests. ries of quick-fire questions as part of their national curriculum

At the same time, English tests for seven, 11 and 14-yearmaths tests. olds will have a new emphasis on basic literacy, grammar, spelling and punctuation. Controversial Shakespeare tests for 14-year-olds will continue despite protests from English

eachers. In future, parents will receive children's test results as standardised scores set against a national average. In the past, they have simply been told which broad curriculum level their

child has reached. The changes form part of a drive to emphasise the basics of literacy and numeracy at all

Details of the new mental arithmetic tests have not yet been determined, but the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority has been asked to consider whether they could help to measure children's mathematical abilities.

The tests would be based on simple sums which children should know by heart, and could possibly last 15 to 20 minutes. For example, the teacher might ask pupils to write down the answer to seven times nine, giving them just a few seconds to complete the task.

Mental arithmetic is emphasised in experimental maths courses in the London boroughs of Barking and Dagen-ham, which have attracted a great deal of attention recently. Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education. and Chris Woodhead, the Chief

Inspector of schools, have both visited Barking to look at the

Calculators are also to be withdrawn from one of the existing maths tests for 14-yearolds, bringing them into line with this year's 11-year-olds'

Making the announcement about next year's tests, education minister Lord Henley said: This package of reforms will bring extra focus to basic literacy and numeracy, increase rigour and provide more help for schools.

"These reforms are good news for teachers and parents. They will further refine and improve the assessment regime for 1997 and beyond."

A Labour spokesman said the Government was "again catching up with Labour policy".
"Ministers still have to tell us

when they will intend to introduce another Labour idea, baseline assessment at the start of school, so that schools can bring in year-on-year targets for improvement for children from the start of primary education,"

he said Doug McAvoy, general sec-retary of the National Union of Teachers, said the Govethment's response to the review of tests and assessment was He said teachers would be

pleased at the central position, which would be retained for which would be retained for teachers' own assessment of their pupils. But he said continuation that the coverage would publish league at the said specific teachers are superferred as a president of the said specific specific perfectly and specific specifi ☐ Teachers are given five to 10 days notice for a hearing when dismissal proceedings are launched, and not five to 10 days' notice of dismissal, as stated in the Independent on

Tuesday, 2 July

First appearance for flightless feathered friends



Stepping out: A pair of Humboldt's penguins, part of a record crop of 23 birds at Chester Zoo. When young, the penguins, which come from the southern tip of Peru, are covered in grey fluff and and fed on liquidised fish. There are about 20,000 left in the wild Photograph: Craig Easton

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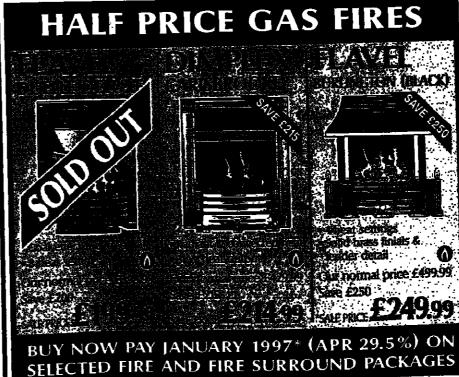
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Captives in Kashmir: Terry Waite and John McCarthy join families' call for separatist rebels to release Western travellers

'Get rid of the problem, let the hostages go'

LOUISE JURY

The first anniversary of the capture of Western hostages by Kashmiri rebels passes today, with an appeal from the former Lebanon hostage Terry Waite for their release.

Mr Waite joined relatives of the captives in broadcasting messages of love and support to the four men, including the Britons Keith Mangan and Paul Wells, whose whereabouts

Speaking on the BBC World Service yesterday, Mr Waite, formerly the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, said nothing could be gained by



Captives: (from left) Dirk Hasert, Donald Hutchings, Keith Mangan, Paul Wells and Hans Christian Ostroe in Kashmir

"Get rid of the problem and let the men go," he said in an interview with a fellow former Beirut hostage, John McCarthy, who now presents the programme Outlook, which sustained the two men through

their own captivity.
"I am convinced that there are enough people in the world including myself who are pre-pared to take a fresh look at the problems facing people in that region but no one can do any-thing while hostages are still

Mr Mangan, 34, an electrician, from Eston, near Mid-dlesbrough, his wife, Julie, Mr Wells, 25, a photography student from Blackburn, Lancashire,

to live for.

News of the remaining hostages has remained scant with the British High Commission in Delhi working on the basis that "the hostages are very much alive" although a captured 13 December last year.

Julie Mangan yesterday re-called how she did not even have a chance to say goodbye

and his girlfriend, Catherine Moseley, were seized at gunpoint about 60 miles east of the Kashmiri capital, Srinigar, last

Mrs Mangan and Miss Mose-ley were later released, but the British men were detained along with an American, Donald Shelley, a German, Dirk Hasert, and a Norwegian, Hans Ostroe, by the previously un-known Al-Faran separatist

It demanded the release of Kashmiri militants from Indian jails and threatened to kill hostages unless their demands were met. They were not.

On 13 August last year, Mr Ostroe was found beheaded with "Al-Faran" carved on his body. His despair was marked in a note found hidden in his underwear: "I'm dying. There's nothing to eat. There's nothing

militant said they were killed on

when she was released. "He couldn't find his coat. I bent down to give him mine and when I looked up he was walk-



Voice of experience: The former Beirut hostage John McCarthy hosting the Outlook programme yesterday reports to the effect that the

In a message she hoped her husband might hear, she said: "I know that we are in each other's hearts and to say I love you inadequate.

"I know, Keith, that you are willing me to stay strong and you must do the same."

hostage Paul, said: "He'll be finding it hard but he'll cope because he's a strong person. However, the health of the

hostages is expected to be poor because of the cold, poor diet, unhygienic conditions and the

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Sarah Wells, the sister of the mental strain of the ordeal. A hostages are dead. Foreign Office spokesman said as much as possible was being done although there has been no direct contact with Al-Faran the ground.

"There have been a lot of un-Carthy both heard messages confirmed sightings and some

from friends and family similar to those broadcast vesterday

he

when they were held hostage in "But we are still working on the assumption they're alive. We Lebanon. Today is also the 30th anhave a lot of experts there on Terry Waite and John Mc-

niversary of the Outlook programme. It can be heard in the

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PCA backs police station cameras

JASON BENNETTO Crime Correspondent

The Police Complaints Authority yesterday called for closed-circuit television cameras areas of all police stations to help resolve complaints against

The authority, which published its annual report yester-day, said the use of CCTV may lower the number of deaths in custody, of which there were 46 last year. The PCA said CCTV could remove the need for long, police themselves. costly investigations by providing conclusive evidence.
A growing number of forces

are already using CCTV in stations. In Staffordshire it is fitted in all custody suites, while in London a pilot project is

running.
The PCA's acting chairman, Peter Moorhouse, said: "CCTV formal disciplinary charges win custody suites is becoming a preferred against officers."

must for two reasons. It's a must for the protection of the detained person. And if a police force has a businesslike approach it's a must because it reduces tactical and malicious complaints, and if there are complaints it cuts down the cost of investigating, because much of the evidence will be on video

and becomes indisputable." The PCA said investigations into complaints against Britain's 20,000 voluntary constables, or Specials, should be overseen by the authority rather than the

The report also expressed concerns about the presence of cameras and journalists at highprofile raids and reporters obtaining tip-offs about the arrests of celebrities

It disclosed that the PCA reviewed 4.154 cases during 1994-95, as a result of which 253 formal disciplinary charges were

DAILY POEM

A Serious Poem

By Roger McGough

This is a serious poem It wears a serious face It does not fritter away the word. It knows its place

Perfectly balanced Neither too long or too short It gazes solemnly heavenwards Like a real poem ought

Familiar with the classics It drops names with ease Here comes Plato with Lycides And look, there's Demosthenes!

Poetry at its best And British through and through A web site for sore eyes That serves to welcome you.

A poem often ends with two lines that rhyme. But not always.

Roger McGough's poem went live on the World Wide Web yesterday when the British Council launched its web site for the promotion of arts, language, science and technology (http://www.britcoun.org). Missing - perforce - is McGough's hypnotic and deadpan delivery which makes him such an outstanding poet in performance. The Liverpool Poets -McGough, Adrian Henri and Brian Patten - have recently re-formed, a year ahead of their 30th anniversary, and are around and about with Willy Russell.

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This object of devotion to a great saint belongs in Britain

The Becket Chasse comes up for auction today, and could be moving abroad. This is a rare and marvellous survival from the Middle Ages, and it belongs in Britain simply because it would not mean nearly so much to an

audience anywhere else.

Fine works of art leave
Britain every year. Fra Bartolomeo's Holy Family from the
Gage Collection, recently sold
to the Getty Museum for £14m,
is a recent example. But few
carry such a rich freight of carry such a rich freight of meaning specifically for us as does this colourful and boldly

designed reliquary casket.

It was probably made shortly after the bruial murder of the saint whose relics it may have once contained.

The death of Saint Thomas à Becket, the Archbishop of Canterbury, in 1170 appalled the Christian world, and his shrine at Canterbury was visited by countless pilgrims, including those conjured up in Chaucer's Canterbury Tales. But during the Reformation, the treasuries of our great churches were stripped bare. Precious few works remain to give us an our secular age, but perhaps we

First Person

By David Barne, Director of the National Art Collections

The Fund was the first to support the Victoria and Albert Museum in its bid to acquire the Becket Chasse. with a grant of £100,000, and has been at the forefront of the campaign to save the Chasse from being lost to the nation at auction.

idea of what was lost; this Chasse is an outstanding example. Since the Chasse is not a great Renaissance painting or a lush neoclassical statue, it

doesn't come with a readymade fan club. This is, for most of us, unfamiliar territory. It is not a "work of art" in the modern sense; its maker would probably not have grasped the meaning of that clusive concept. It was created as an object of religious devotion for the

glorification of a great saint and

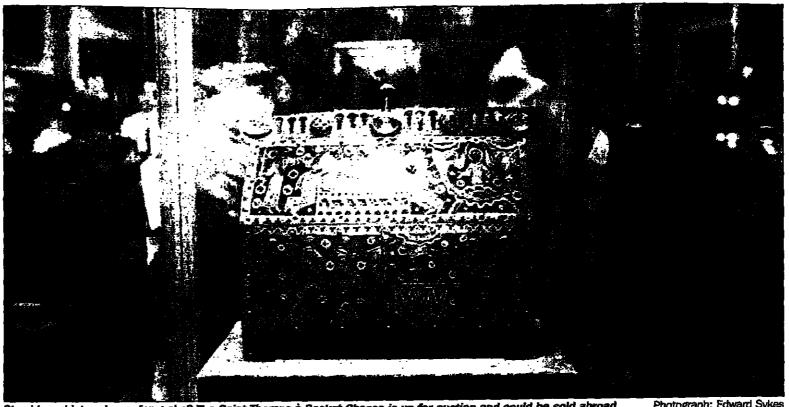
martyr. Strange words these, in

what they once meant.

The Chasse is a dramatic evocation of the stark conflict between good and cvil. The design is simple, almost crude, but so much is packed into it: the cruel murder, the stately funeral and the soul of Becket raised up to heaven by angels. It has not been in Britain for

all of the last 50 years, so there is no prospect of the Govern-ment delaying its export to al-low time for fundraising. But few works so perfectly fulfil the criteria applied by the Export Reviewing Committee - it is an object "so closely connected with our history and national life that its departure would be a misfortune"; one of aesthetic importance and outstanding cultural significance.

The Chasse was probably made for Peterborough Abbey (now Cathedral), quite possibly commissioned by Abbot Bene dict, a close associate of Becket. If it stays on these shores would it not be good if it could pay an occasional visit to its old home. Peterborough, and, perhaps, Canterbury too?



Should our history be up for grabs? The Saint Thomas à Becket Chasse is up for auction and could be sold abroad

A woman to replace Isaacs at the ROH

DAVID LISTER

A woman looks certain to take over the running of the Royal Opera House, in London, for Richard Eyre has been the the first time. Four high-profile more high-profile artistic di-women in the arts are being considered by the ROH board to take over as general director when Sir Jeremy Isaacs retires board. next year. But it is understood that the nature of the post is ed that she would not be tak-

al Opera, Nicholas rayuc looks likely to continue in that key role on the artistic side and be an important influence on artistic policy at Covent Garden. The post of general director will become much more an administrative role, with the new occupant working alongside Mr

An unofficial short-list of four leading women in the arts has been considered by the ROH board. The quartet com-prises Genista Mackintosh, executive director at the Royal National Theatre; Mary Allen, secretary-general of the Arts Council; Elaine Padmore, a much- praised opera intendant and broadcaster and Ruth McKenzie who ran the Nottingham Playhouse and won it a national reputation.

Genista Mackintosh is looking like the favourite for the job. As executive director at the Na-



Candidate: Mary Allen from

the Arts Council

tional Theatre, she has run the administrative and production side after moving to the Na-tional from the RSC, while den would appeal to the ROH

Mary Allen has publicly stating the job, but this possibility The present director of the is nevertheless not being ruled Arts Council. Ruth McKenzie is thought to lack sufficient na-tional experience, while Elaine Padmore, though much admired at Covent Garden, might want to continue her career as a director of operas both in Britain and abroad.

Peter Jonas, the former general director of the English National Opera (ENO), now running the Staatsoper in Mu-nich was also high on the ROH's list of desirable properties, but he is understood to be unwilling to leave Munich at

The new general director will join at a fraught period in the ROH's history. Next year, the house closes down for two years for redevelopment.

The Royal Opera will perform at a number of London venues, including the Barbican Centre, and the Royal Ballet will perform both in London and will tour nationally and in-ternationally. Nearly 300 re-dundancies are planned because of the temporary move from Covent Garden, and the new general director will have to cope with the industrial relations repercussions from this.

In addition to these problems, the ROH is now without a finance director at a time when it must raise millions of pounds for its redevelopment to match the lottery money it has received. The finance director Clive Timms resigned from the Royal Opera last month for personal reasons.

Sculptures to be put in Trafalgar

Plans to exhibit some of the best of British sculpture on an empty plinth in London's Trafalgar but our solution - which is to Square were unveiled yesterday.

The Royal Society of Arts wants five different works to be commissioned or selected for display on the site for up to a year each.

The five sculptures will represent a range of schools or styles of sculpture, from existing bronze to recent developments and contemporary work, and will include one Victorian sculpture, one recent sculpture and three new sculpture com-

The plan was outlined by Prue Leith, the cookery expert and writer, who now chairs the

She said: "Because people feel so strongly about art, there are passionate advocates for works from traditional bronze

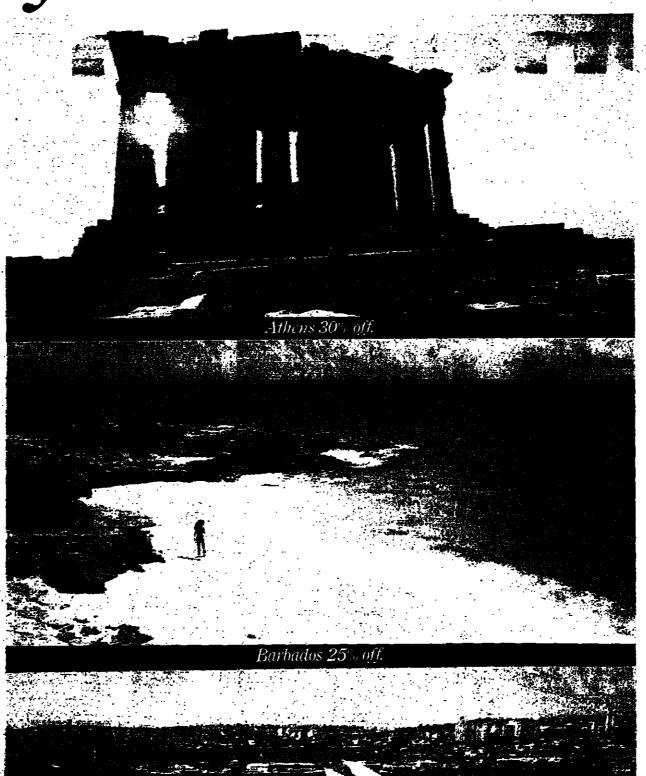
erect a series of works from different traditions (both existing sculptures and new commissions) in a five-year series on the plinth - has the support of the oublic and of the various bodies with an interest in Trafalgar

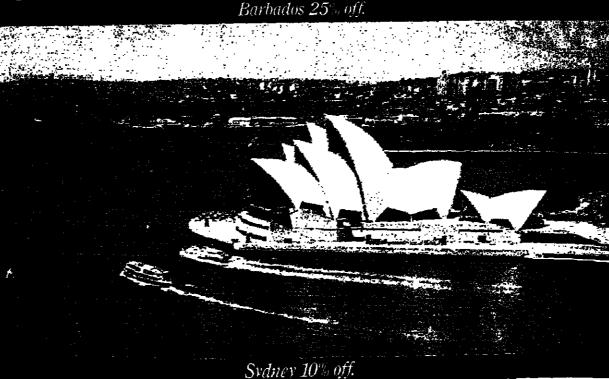
We are trying to put five great works of art, one at a time, on that single plinth - a plinth which has been empty for 150 years, ever since it was built, because no one could agree on what should go there."

The total cost of the RSA initiative, which has to be approved by the Department of National Heritage and Westminster Council, will be in the region of

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HOOVER

Predicament for Shell: Leading contractors tender proposals for safely decommissioning controversial oil storage tank



Break-up threat to Brent Spar's final voyage

NICHOLAS SCHOON **Environment Correspondent**

Shell has run into a new problem as it tries to work out an

acceptable way of disposing of its giant Brent Spar oil storage A study on the 14,500-tonne structure by the engineering consultants WS Atkins has

shown that the Spar would buckle and break if the cheapest and easiest technique to bring it on shore was used. Ever since a successful Greenpeace campaign halted Shell's attempts to sink the Spar in the north-east Atlantic just over a year ago, the giant

oil company has been working on different disposal options, which include bringing it ashore and breaking it up for scrap. In the meantime the structure, essentially a vast, cylindrical, crude-oil storage tank over 400ft tall, has been anchored in

a deep Norwegian fjord. Shell had been considering simply reversing the method it

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used to put the Spar into use in its Brent field, half-way between Shetland and Norway, back in the early 1970s.

This involved gradually let-ting sea water into its storage tanks in a controlled sequence, which turned it from floating on its side with a shallow draught (once it had been taken out of dry dock where it was built) into floating on its end.

The new study, which used advanced computer techniques not available when the Spar was designed, has shown that the Spar would almost certainly rupture its one-inch thick walls if this sequence was reversed. So if it is to be brought ashore, another method will have to be

At a press conference yes-terday, Shell UK said that 21 leading contractors from eight different nations had now received firm invitations to set out their options for disposal of the Brent Spar. They will have to offer the

best combination of minimising environmental damage, risks to disposal workers' health and safety and costs. Eric Faulds, Shell's decom-

missioning manager, said the 21 contractors had not yet told Shell what they had in mind, but they had been selected on the basis of their reputation. previous experience and financial viability.

"When we get down to a shortlist of half a dozen schemes we want a spread of options." he said. "We don't want them all to involve bringing it ashore

"I would hope we would get some fairly imaginative proposals which involve re-use of a large part of the structure intact, for example in a breakwater or a harbour."

ruled out the deep-sea disposal option which aftracted such and tank linings. There is a because that might yet prove to would pose only an extremely be the best practical environmental choice. "The world is a different place now, however, and we've had so many ideas and so much interest that I'm still reasonably optimistic we can find a better alternative."

Shell eventually decides on will have to be approved by the Government exploration and production

selecting an option. "We have acknowledged that we originally set out to dispose of the Spar without explaining what we were doing early enough or widely enough. Shell has

placed a Brent Spar site on the and breaking it up. Internet. The Spar, although emptied after 20 years of use, still contains several dozen tonnes of oily sludge, much smaller quan-

He said that Shell had not Whatever disposal option

Heinz Rothermund, Shell's managing director, promised

feet in the Atlantic, as was originally planned. One of the many ideas sent into Shell over the past year has been to use the Spar as a fish ranch in a Norwegian fjord. Proposed by a businessman in the fish-farming equipment business, this would involve feeding fish guts and offal from fish farms to crabs, lobsters and fish. which would congregate in huge

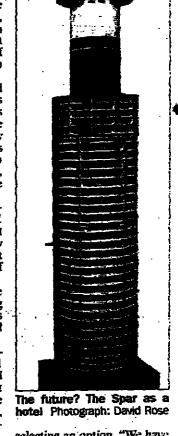
tities of toxic metals and some

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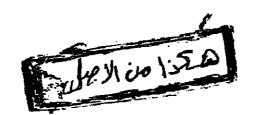
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RUSSIAN ELECTIONS

Voices from the cities: Fears for Yeltsin's health, worries over rise of Lebed and boredom with polls erode President's support

Weary voters bring no cheer to reform camp

PHIL REEVES St Petersburg

Boris Yeltsin, struggling anew with serious health problems. would have taken no cheer from the sight of his voters trudging to the polls in St Petersburg, one of his main strongholds. Many of those who braved a rain-soaked day looked as if they were being forced to take a dip in one of the chilly-looking nearby canals.

This elegant city, home to much of Russia's liberal intelentsia, finally seems to be sick of politics. "People have had it up to here," said Yevgeny Galo-vanov, an election official, as he watched people trickle slowly

into his polling station. It's hardly surprising. In the last seven months St Petersburg has gone to the polls five times once for a parliamentary election, twice for the presidential contest and twice to determine a particularly cynical tussle for

A communal weariness, underscored by other issues, such as organised crime, a sluggish economy and liberal outrage over Mr Yeltsin's handling Chechen war, was reflected in the turn-out last month. Only 62 per cent took part in the first round of the presidential election, 8 per cent less than the national average.

But if Mr Yeltsin's advisers believed that non-voters would finally rally round the President in vesterday's run-off, they may have been mistaken. This is not because of a lack

of effort by the Yeltsin camign, even though it fizzled out badly towards the end. Although Mr Yeltsin secured a big victory bere, almost 50 per cent in the first round, his advisers know well that a low turn-out is ominous: Communist voters tend always to vote, while Mr Yeltsin's support is far less predictable. They also know that St Petersburg is a bastion of Grigory Yavlinsky, the liberal

backs Mr Yeltsin. For the President to be sure of victory, many of these voters needed to

be won over.

Hence, the thousands of copies of a free paper called "Vote!" that have circulated in the city's metro system, carrying appeals from celebrated local writers and artists; the city's decision to arrange for graffiti to be painted on walkways, bearing technicolour warnings to the city to "Vote or Lose"; and the free travel on the city's public transport system throughout yesterday's national holiday.

Most voters knew something was amiss with Mr Yeltsin's health, although it was heavily played down by much of the media, which only made occasional references to his "sore throat", and latterly, his "cold". Years of Communist censorship have taught Russians to read between the lines. Like others, Vladimir Korobkov, a dancer



Secret ballot: Soldiers check a woman's bag at a polling station in Grozny, Chechnya

with the Maly Theatre, had reservations about Mr Yeltsin and has watched with alarm the rise of retired general Alexander Lebed. "The man's is a dic-

voted for the general in June. but yesterday decided not to turn out. "I thought I was voting for a military man, not a

Alexander Kulakov, a driver, all the power he is getting," he said. "It's not democratic". In the first round, Dmitry Maksimov, an engineer at St Petersburg's giant Kirov factory, voted for Mr Yeltsin, believing

he would win overwhelmingly. Yesterday he supported Gennady Zyuganov, the Communist. "I would have voted for Boris Nikolayevich if it had not

Photograph: Vladimir Svarzevich: Reuter Communist movies on television." he explained, "I don't reject my past. They showed an old lady in a campaign advertisement, saying 'I live well now', when I know she does not."

Brazilian soap keeps public from dachaland

HELEN WOMACK Moscow

two hours yesterday to watch Boris Yeltsin vote in Moscow, only to be told that he had cast his ballot beyond the glare of publicity in a village outside the city. Many quickly jumped to the worst conclusions about the health of the president, who had already aroused suspicions by dropping from view in the last days of the election campaign.

Many Russians were unaware that the Kremlin leader had failed to turn up at his usual polling station near his home in the prestigious suburb of Krylatskoye, and had voted instead



Gen Alexander Lebed:

at Barvikha where he convalesced last year after his two heart attacks. Those who knew took the news in their stride. It was not going to influence voting decisions that they had made weeks if not months ago.

"I have voted for a person whom I do not greatly respect but who will take us forward into the future," said Larissa Sergeyevna, in her late forties, who did not want to reveal the secret of her vote but was nevertheless implying that she had chosen Mr Yeltsin. Did she know that he was apparently ill? "Ah, that's nothing," she said.
"We have got used to him disappearing from time to time. He'll be back."

She was one of only a trickle of voters at the polling station on Dostoyevsky Street in central Moscow yesterday morning. To discourage city dwellers from taking advantage of the warm weather and travelling out to their dachas instead of voting, state television was showing a triple episode of a popular Brazilian soap opera. Tropicana. Many people were

evidently glued to their sets. But voting seemed to pick up after lunch. At 2pm there was a livelier flow of people coming from polling station No 2148 in the Akademicheskaya district of the city, and most of them said they had voted for Mr Yeltsin rather than Gennady Zyganov, the Communist leader, despite whatever health problems be

might have.

"It's not good news, of course," said Mikhail Vasin, a young businessman, "but I have think he will be okay. He's a healthy bloke, a sportsman. So what if he drinks? We all drink, don't we? And even if he has to retire, it won't be the end of the world. He has a good team around him. But Zyuganov - if he wins, that will be the end of the world."

Olga Grigorievna, a doctor, was equally calm after voting for the incumbent president. "We're all people. We can all get colds," she said, showing more faith in the official explanation of Mr Yeltsin's absence than

most foreign observers here. One might have thought that Russians, who lived through the last days of Leonard Brezhnev, when the Kremlin made ridiculous claims that the dying leader had only minor ailments would have been more inclined to question what they were told. Perhaps strong Yeltsin supporters just did not want to contemplate the worst. For Communists, of course, news that Mr Yeltsin was not well only strengthened their determination to vote for Mr Zyuganov, who last week was ostentatiously dancing and playing volleyball to prove he was in good health.

"I have known Yeltsin since he was in Sverdlovsk [as regional Communist leader in the Soviet eral and I can tell you that his drink problem goes back that far," said Vasily Parfyonov, a retired journalist and Zyuganov voter. "He may be trying to fight his weakness but the passion for alcohol is not curable. Russia

needs a healthy leader." If the president is forced to retire because of ill health, the constitution says the prime minister should take over pending fresh elections. But General Alexander Lebed's appointment as Mr Yeltsin's national security adviser has added a new factor. He has said he favours the revival of the post of vicepresident, and clearly aspires to the top Kremlin job for himself.

derstood that they were choosing a package which included General Lebed, a nationalist and advocate of strict law and order. Some found the situation reassuring; others did not.

"The fact that Lebed is at his side gives me more confidence to vote for Yeltsin," said Valya Zosikova, who spent last year in Cambridge. "Lebed will see that everything is all right."

dent of computer studies, ing in through the back door." He added, however, that he did not think this likely. "Lebed will be out in six months. He's a soldier. He's too straight to survive for long in the Kremlin.





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But Kostya Fadeyev, a studisagreed. "I'm voting for Yeltsin, not Lebed," he said. "I don't want to see Lebed com-



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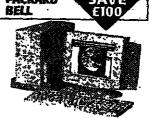
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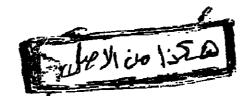
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RUSSIAN ELECTIONS

Yeltsin's death may spark succession crisis

Moscow — Boris Yeltsin's poor health, the focal point of interest for foreigners if not for Russians in yesterday's presidential election, raises questions as pertinent in post-Communist Russia as they were in Soviet times. How exactly does one Kremlin leader succeed another, and is there any guarantee that the transfer of power will take place smoothly?

On paper, the picture is clear. The Russian constitution, adopted in December 1993, states that in the event of the President's death, or incapacity to fulfil his duties, his job passes temporarily to the Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin. The Prime Minister is then to call fresh presidential elections within

three months. In practice, there is no certainty that Russia would easily surmount the upheaval provoked by Mr Yeltsin's premature departure from office. The constitutional mechanisms that are in place have never been tested and may count for little against a centuries-old tradition of power struggles, often violent, that have accompanied the demise of a tsar or party chief.

Moreover, whereas the constitution is considered almost sacred by the political classes in a country such as the United States, there is no such devotion in Russia to a document that is stitutional procedures when he mer general whom Mr Yeltsin tailor-made for Mr Yeltsin. He drew up the constitution in the aftermath of the armed upris-

A transfer of power is unlikely to be a peaceful, orderly process, writes Tony Barber

ing in the Russian parliament er should he lose the election. building in October 1993. The extraordinary range of powers that it granted him at the expense of the legislature was designed to ensure that no one could mount a serious threat to a realistic prospect. Moscow has his rule again.

The fragility of Russia's constitutional orwas exposed short-

first round of the presidential election, on 16 June. when a cabal cluding the Defence Minister, the head of the former KGB and Mr Yeltsin's per-

sonal security Zyuganov: Bid for power the constitution chief were at polls could be thwarted is just a piece of

drummed out of the Kremlin on charges of try-tered, ignored or scrapped at ing to force the postponement will has fed through into the atwhich he would hand over pow-

Many Russian political commentators believe that, despite insisting that the election should take place, Mr Yeltsin never intended to make a graceful exit from office if defeat loomed as

buzzed with rumours of a so-called "Plan B", according to which Mr Yeltsin would have declared a national emergency and stayed in power rathe. vacate Kremlin the for Gennady Zyuganov, his Communist

challenger. Inevitably, the impression that

of the election. Less than a month before that drama, Mr Russian politicians. For no one Yeltsin had raised doubts about is this more true than Alexanhis willingness to abide by con- der Lebed, the outspoken forrejected a law passed by the Communist-dominated parlia-rity, after Mr Lebed finished ment that set out the process by third in the election's first

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Despite his lack of a genuine power base in Mr Yeltsin's obscure Kremlin power structures, Mr Lebed has not disguised his ambition to rule Russia as soon as possible.

He proposed last week that he should be given the post of vice-president, a job which was abolished in 1993 after its then incumbent, Alexander Rutskoi, took part in the armed revolt at the White House. Mr Lebed clearly sees himself as the heirapparent, constitution or no constitution.
Other influential figures in

Mr Yeltsin's entourage are likely to take a different view, especially since Mr Lebed has revealed in the past two weeks that his opinions are much more illiberal than he indicated during his election

campaign.

Those who might resist a
Lebed bid for power include not only reformists, such as Anatoly Chubais, one of Mr Yeltsin's top campaign strategists, but more centrist politicians with a taste for power and patronage, such as Mr Chernomyrdin.

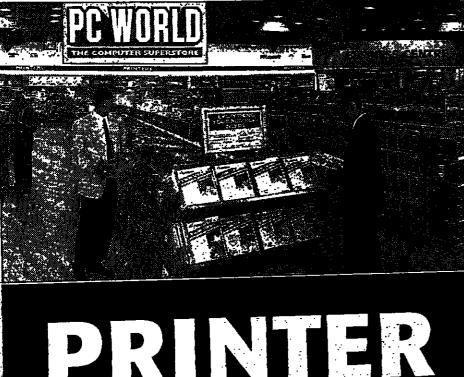
Last July, when President Yeltsin suffered the first of his two heart attacks in 1995, Mr Lebed was a marginal political figure and Mr Chernomyrdin was the only plausible president-in-waiting. Now Mr Lebed holds centre stage.

If Mr Yeltsin's health continues to decline it is difficult to see how Russia can avoid yet an-other of its periodic clashes for power in the Kremlin.



Knife-edge vote: Moscow State Circus players casting their ballots on tour in Watford

Photograph: Brian Harris



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US nerves shaken by climate of uncertainty

Events have forced a White House rethink, writes Rupert Cornwell

vail in yesterday's run-off vote, his manifestly poor health, a gathering economic crisis and the sudden ascent of professed "semi-democrat" Alexander Lebed have left US policy-makers under few illusions that dealings with Russia will be trickier thar wer in a Yeltsin second term - should he man-

age to complete one. Barely a fortnight ago, the mood here was vastly more assured. Certainly the President led his Communist opponent Gennady Zyuganov by just three points, but the speed with which he co-opted Mr Lebed and evicted several hardliners from the Kremlin inner circle convinced the Clinton administration that the candidate which it had supported from the outset had wrapped matters up and Russia's "democratic" future was assured.

Since then however, that rosy scenario has unravelled. Mr Lebed has put an authoritarian and anti-Semitic streak on ugly display, and the White House has had to watch in embarrassed silence as Mr Yeltsin disappeared for days on end with what was, officially, "a cold".

Visually, the recent authorised images of a slow, stiff-spoken Boris Yeltsin are reminiscent of nothing so much as the Soviet Union of the early 1980s, when a procession of geriatric leaders - Brezhnev, Andropov, Chemenko – made brief, minutely choreographed appearances that raised more questions than they answered. But, however flawed and secretive, the Soviet system was at least broadly predictable. Not so the erratic and capricious Yeltsin regime.

Even a fit Mr Yeltsin would

ven if Boris Yeltsin should pre- face mountainous economic problems. His campaign handouts have driven the budget deficit far beyond the targets laid down by the IMF as condition of this spring's \$10bn loan, pushed through largely at US insistence. At the least, economists warn, the consequence will be a new surge in inflation: at worst, a full-blown financial crisis that will scare off Western investment and reinforce anti-market, authoritari-

an attitudes in the country. As it is, his health seems more fragile than ever, creating uncertainty over where day-to-day power lies and (assuming he wins) offering still more leeway for Mr Lebed, a figure viewed with growing nervousness and distaste by the US.

One consolation for US policy-makers is Mr Lebed's opposition to the Chechen war, and his readiness to make real concessions to obtain a genuine end to the fighting. But they doubt even a law-and-order hawk like Mr Lebed can control crime and break the power of the Mafia groups who have thrived under Mr Yeltsin. Mr Lebed is seen as a de fac-

to Vice-President, whose ambition for the top job makes it more than likely the two men, both domineering and instinctively authoritarian, will clash. The Lebed/Yeltsin tandem, in other words, is a recipe for instability.

That likelihood, added to growing nationalism and xenophobia across the political spectrum, can only dim prospects for final ratification of arms control treaties. Washington may also find itself under great pressure to press ahead with Nato enlargement far more quickly than it would like.

The 'spy' who made a general eat his words

Alexander Lebed, who has won a reputation for controversial remarks during his short spell in the political limelight, got himself into deep water yesterday when he accused a Spanish

journalist of being a spy. Mr Yeltsin's new security supremo was forced to take back his words to appease the indignant reporter, who had asked him to explain how he

would carry out a plan to stop Russian officials buying villas in Spain with embezzled cash.

Why should I pass all my secrets presidential election run-off.

Moscow (Reuter) — General over into the hands of a spy?" said General Lebed. "What spy?" she asked, taken

"You - a Spanish spy," said the general.
"I am not a spy, I'm a journalist. Please take back your

words," she said. It was not clear whether General Lebed, who has a deadpan manner, was joking,

but he quickly backed down. "I take my words back ... I seriously take back my words. said the general, who had just We'll work something out. emerged from voting in Russia's

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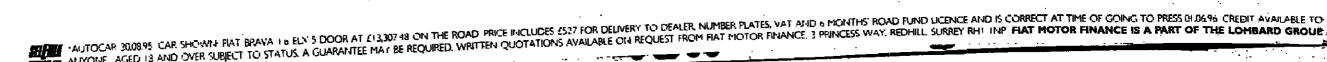
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Bastia bomb: As in Northern Ireland in the 1970s, there is a backlash against violence – but the precedent is not promising

Corsica death spurs women's peace group

MAY DEJEVSKY

ThCorsican nationalist killed by Ear bomb in the city of Bastia h Monday was buried in his nave village of Lucciana yesrday evening with full para-milary honours.

compando unit from the para-milary FLNC-Canal Historiue fired three shots over the offin before it was lowered intche grave. Pierre Lorenzi polical from organisation, Corulta.

The national secretary of money circulating in the build-Conulta, Charles Pieri, believ to have been the main targe of the attack in which 14 oth people were hurt, suffered extesive injuries, as did a third that "no one should have cause to fear ... because of the violence of a minority". To the comany, a security firm, when theomb exploded.

fith politicians in Paris still shoked by the force of the attad the first in Corsica's recent histry of violence to have injuid indiscriminately, the offiel line was "firmness". A deen or so known nationalists wee detained in Corsica ownight, and the chief of the Frach national police force, Clude Gueant, was dispatched oBastia from Paris. One glimmer of hope has

been provided over the past six tionalists have split many times months by a women's peace movement, similar in origins and sentiments to the women's peace movement in Ireland and founded by women who have lost - or who fear losing husbands and sons.

dispite appeals from police officially founded in January, thathe funeral should be held and comprises a mixture of nain accordance with the law, a tive-born Corsicans and women who have settled in the island. Among the Manifesto's founders was Laetitia Sozzi, aged 30, whose husband Robert, a member of the FLNC -Canal was leader of the movement's Historique had been murdered after questioning the links between the group and "dirty

> ing sector in Corsica. The women say that they "reject the establishment of a system based on terror" and insist to fear ... because of the vio-lence of a minority". To the amazement of many who are inured to Corsican violence, their demonstrations regularly attract more than 1,000 people.

More than 48 hours after the attack, however, no group had admitted responsibility for the bomb, and police were enforcing a news blackout on any leads. In the resulting vacuum, all manner of theories circulated. The most popular centred on political, personal or business rivalries. Lorenzi was a business partner of Charles Pieri. The naover, and have directed as much violence against each other as against French targets.

In Corsica, however, a spokesman for the Movement for Self-Determination, the political front of FLNC-Canal Habituel, the main nationalist rival to Conculta, condemned the killing and denied any connection with it. The condemnation seemed to quash one theory, that the cur bomb was a revenge attack for the murder 10 months ago of one of the Movement's leaders, Pierre Albertini

A more sinister theory, advanced by a spokesman for yet another nationalist group, the Accolta Naziunale Corsa, was that none of the nationalists was directly involved and the attack was a staged "provocation" from outside. "Outside" could mean opponents of nationalism in Corsica, or even - though this was not stated openly - inspired by Paris. He said it was inconceivable" that nationalists could direct such violence against each other.

The horror that marked the first public and political responses to the Bastia bomb had given way by yesterday to a strange mixture of pessimism and perverse optimism. Pessimists regarded the bomb as a harbinger of worse to come. They also predicted a disastrous summer for the island's tourism. its chief source of income.



Euphoria that turned to acrimony

DAVID MCKITTRICK

The phenomenon of the women's peace movement which swept Northern Ireland in the 1970s provides an unpromising precedent for the campaigners now being organised in Corsica.

The Belfast-based Peace People, as they were known, went through a euphoric phase in which they were able to assemble tens of thousands at huge outdoor rallies. Within a who was a close personal friend

organisation fell apart amidst

public and internal acrimony. The movement survives to this day, but is now a small-scale organisation which, although it supports cross-community initiatives at local level, attracts little national interest.

The organisation emerged from a wave of anger and grief generated by the deaths of three children in a car chase in west Belfast in August 1976. An IRA member. Danny Lennon.

short period, however, the of Sinn Fein president Gerry came public figures. But the money was put. Betty Williams Adams, was driving a getaway car when he was shot by a soldier. The vehicle went out of control, careering on to a pavement and killing three

young sisters. In the aftermath of the incident two local women, Betty Williams and Mairead Corrigan, the children's aunt, called on people to reject terrorism. The movement quickly snowballed, attracting international publicity. The two women won the

movement came under criticism from both paramilitary groups and conventional politicians.

As the months passed, the initial hope and fervour of the Peace People ebbed, while the generalised desire for peace became more complicated as it adopted its own positions on

contentious issues. There followed a period of internal arguments and personality clashes, and there was damaging criticism about the

moved to the United States while Mairead Corrigan continues with her peace work in Belfast.

Years later, when a television company made a programme to mark the anniversary of the movement's foundation, the two women preferred not to appear on screen together.

The Peace People are remembered in Belfast as a transient phenomenon which

When being 'highso' is a question of one's vintage

huket — I have been hoping b become a little more "highody qualifies, but I think I have ased open the door by sitting esides the Andaman Sea on he Thai island of Phuket siping a 1945 Beaulieu Vinevard rivate Reserve Cabernet Sauvi-

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yh will discover it means high shiety, the correct usage being for example, "he is so highso or I went to a really highso highsolated a possibility of opening a magnaward-winning wine tellar, at a name only wine bar in Bangkok tracked to a hotel when you consider that when you consider that when you consider that I will not only the wine sin co-lined brockets to both the world; but you can be to do wines in co-lined brockets to both the world; but you can be to do wines in co-lined brockets to both the world; all really wine bar?

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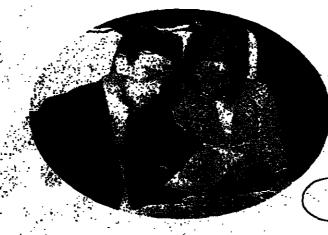
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"The World's Best Cabernet Sauvignon" tasting drew most ish event, with wine swirling around the mouth and then expelled into nearby buckets, but a serious, gulp-it-down, test of

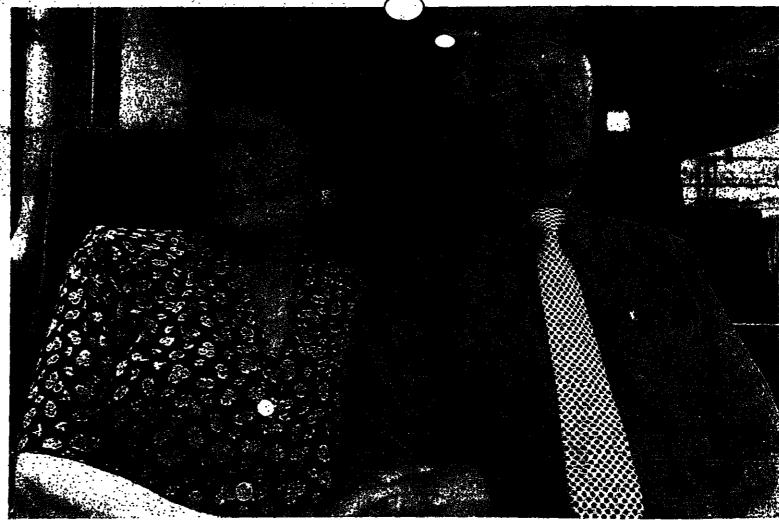
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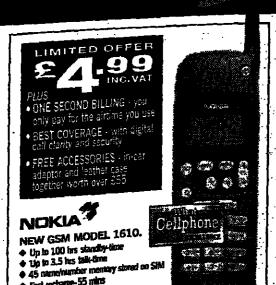
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West Bank jobless eke out living from trash

PATRICK COCKBURN

Jawad held up a pair of worn plimsolls to show he was having a good day. He had found them in the heaps of rotting ruhbish at Azzariya, the main garbage dump for Jerusalem where hundreds of unemployed Palestinians have gathered every day since Israel sealed off the West Bank.

There used to be just 10 or 20 people who came here. says Adel, 19, dressed in a dirty T-shirt. "Now there are between 500 and a thousand people who come because they have no money to buy food for their children. As each garbage truck disgorged its load, people surged forward in search of

food, clothing and scrap metal. Most of the Palestinians who claw through the rubbish at Azzariya used to work in Israel. Jawad, 19, says: "Before the clo-sure [of the West Bank] I used

Aviv. Now I am here from five in the morning." At one time 174,000 Palestinians from Gaza and the West Bank were working in Israel, mainly in con-

Israel had sealed off the West Bank before, but after two suicide bombs exploded in Jerusalem and Ashkelon on 25 February the West Bank was isolated as never before. Israeli employers were threatened with heavy fines if they employed any West Bank Palestinians. Some 210,000 Rumanians, Thais and Turks have replaced Palestinians on Israeli construction sites.

The Azzariva dump is easy to find. You follow garbage trucks past the outskirts of Jerusalem through the village of Azzariya into an enormous sandy hollow. Even before they stop you are hit by the stench of the rubbish heaps. Beside a cliff face there was a huddle of donkeys waiting to take away anything of val-

struction and agriculture.

On the scrapheap: Palestinians scavenging for a living risk death and injury charge of the dump, who did not want to give his name, said: "About 1,000 tons of rubbish come here everyday. It is dangerous for people to be stand-ing in the middle of it. There is their lives.

A Palestinian manager in to death by a truck." In half an hour our car was covered in a fine layer of dirt. It is possible that the people of the Azzariya dump may soon

see a small improvement in

Minister, is expected to decide today if the closure will be eased. This might ultimately allow 50,000 to 60,000 Palestinian workers to enter Israel. But only workers over 25 will be given permits and most of the people at Azzariya are in their late teens or early twenties.

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the dump spoke about the Oslo accords. For them the years of the "peace process" have brought economic misery. In the last 12 months per capita income for Palestinians on the West Bank has fallen by 20 per cent. It is not difficult at

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Not surprisingly nobody at Azzariya, watching the young men squabble over a choice garbage bag, to understand why Hamas and Islamic Jihad find it easy to recruit suicide

Ibrahim, 15, looking pleased that he had found an uneaten roll with some lettuce in it, said

he did not think anythir would get better. He said thathe 14 members of his family ere on the edge of starvation ad the dump was their last resrt.

Later in the afternoone was expecting his mother andather to join him in searching trough the garbage.



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lots of broken glass and last year a ten-year-old child was crushed newly elected Israeli Prime ue. As each truck stops people rush to grab the choicest items. to work in a supermarket in Tel **CTRA SAVINGS**



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Hungary to give £19m in WEICAL atonement for Holocaust

IMRE KARACS

Hungary became the first country in Eastern Europe yesterday to atone for its part in the Final Solution by agreeing to shifted once again. The incucompensate survivors of the

Holocaust. Nearly 60 years after the Paris Peace Treaty bound Budapest to offer compensation to victims of Nazism, the government pledged to set up a foundation with capital of 4bn forints "We are satisfied because,

given the country's current economic plight, this settlement goes beyond a mere gesture," said Gusziav Zoltai, Director of the Association of Jewish Communities in Hungary. "It will also serve as an example for the other countries in the region which have yet to take similar steps." Mr Zoltai's organisation will

contribute to the fund by selling some of the Jewish property returned by the state under a previous law compensating religious groups. A further sum is to be provided by a branch of the World Jewish Organisation.

"This accord brings several years of negotiations almost to their conclusion," said Mr Zoltai. "I say 'almost', because parliament must still approve the package in the autumn." Passage of the bill in the legislature, where the governing coalition has an overwhelming

majority, is virtually assured.

The Hungarian parliament had undertaken a similar commitment in 1946, but did not deliver on its promise; at first the country was bankrupt, then the Communists took over in 1949. Even though - or because - the Communists were led by Jews until 1956, the issue of compensation was swept under the carpet. Token payments from

tributed - and in many ces misappropriated - by the Cn-

munist authorities. After the fall of the id regime in 1989, the priories ing conservatives were quicto return comu Christian churches, but Les were kept waiting. In 193, Holocaust survivors won a 11ing from Hungary's Constutional Court forcing ac government to pay compesstion, but still the authoritiesefused to reach into their pocits.

學 吳 李宗宗

Their tight-fistedness cincided with an upsurge of creave historiography in government circles which attempted trab-solve Hungary of responsility for the murder of an estimated 600,000 Jews during thevar. The deportations to corentration camps and summar executions of Jews began aftr the country was occupied by Jerman troops in 1944, but the chinery of oppressionwas manned mainly by Hungrian fascists. There are estimald to be between 80,000 and 10,000 Jews still living in Hungar.

The compensation pacage. which the government and ewish organisations stress ismly "partial", is intended to hel the most needy. It will supplement the pensions of Jews aged ver 70, and descendants of zws who perished in the dath camps will be partially ompensated for family propeties lost during the war. The deawill not, however, prevent Iblocaust survivors from presing their individual property clams

with the government. Schools, hospitals and Jevish charities also will be funded by the foundation, which wil be headed by Ronald Laude, Hungarian Jew, and son of the cosmetics tycoon Estée Lander

Two sides claim victory in South African poll

Durban (AP) — The Zulu nationalist Inkatha Freedom Party won the most votes in last week's local government elec-tions in KwaZulu-Natal province, according to nearly complete results.

The rival African National Congress (ANC) won control of governing councils in the province's largest cities, including Durban. With 44 per cent of the more than 3 million registered voters casting ballots, Inkatha received 44.5 per cent of the vote compared to 33.2 per cent for the ANC.

Both sides claimed victory, with Inkatha saying it had proved itself the strongest par-ty in KwaZulu-Natal while the ANC said it had won administrative control of the province's largest budgets.

In the nation's first all-rac election in 1994, Inkatha wo just over half the KwaZulu Natal vote to gain control of the provincial government.

The local elections comple ed the transformation of Sout Africa to a democratic govern ment. Most of the rest of the country held their local go ernment voting last Novem ber, but political wrangling at violence twice delayed the KwaZulu-Natal elections.

Inkatha won 74 per cent rural council seats compared 21 per cent for the ANC, whi the ANC won almost 33 p cent of urban council seats just under 19 per cent f Inkatha. In Durban, the AN won half the city council sea while inkatha gained just und



Colombia fears US strike on drug barons

PHIL DAVISON Latin America Correspondent

Perhaps too many Colombians have read Tom Clancy's bestselling novel, Clear and Preseru Danger, or have seen the popular film version starring Harrison Ford. But the rumour sweeping Colombia this week was that American troops were

planning a surgical strike against

Colombia's drug lords. In the novel, the Americans use a laser-guided air-to-ground missile and clandestine ground forces in an attempt to wipe out the cocaine barons. In the rumour, they use laser-guided weapons and troops on the ground, but do not try to kill the drug lords. Instead, they snatch the leaders of the Cali cartel from Colombian jails and whisk them back to the US for trial.

So strong was the rumour, partly fuelled by a new US anti-narcotics operation in the region - dubbed Operation Laser Strike - that security was

stepped up at various prisons.

It began last week when the US Attorney-General, Janet Reno, requested the extradition of the three top Cali drug lords currently in jail, ignoring the fact that Colombia's 1991 constitution bars extradition. Colombian President Ernesto Samper's reply? "No way."

oped into a war of words after number of its members are a memo from the US ambassador in Bogota, Myles for allegedly taking cocaine Frechette, was leaked to the Washington Post. In it, Mr Frechette suggested keeping Mr Samper "as invisible as pos-sible" and revoking his US visa because of alleged past links with the Cali cartel. The visa of Colombia's ambassador to Mexico, Gustavo de Greiff, a former prosecutor-general, had already been revoked at the weekend as

a result of similar suspicions. Washington pointedly refrained from denying the veracity of the Frechette memo. Mr Frechette had previous-

ly angered his hosts by saving he had been "tailed" by Colombian secret service agents and that embassy phones were bugged.

The Colombian foreign ministry responded angrily to Mr Frechette's memo on Tuesday, faxing a statement to news organisations around the world saying it was "profoundly concerned by the mutual crisis of confidence" with the US, which could "threaten Colombia's democratic stability".

Mr Samper was cleared last month by Congress, the only body which could try him for allegedly accepting millions of dollars of cocaine proceeds for his 1994 election campaign. ly? "No way."

But Congress is controlled by his
This week, the rift develruling Liberal Party and a large

themselves under investigation proceeds. Polls show most Colombians believe Mr Samper should have been impeached.

Colombia's influential Roman Catholic church weighed in this week, questioning his in-nocence and describing the country as "morally sick".

Pedro Rubiano, Archbishop of Bogota, became a focal point for criticism of Mr Samper earlier this year. He said the president's claim not to have known that millions of dollars were entering his campaign from the Cali cartel was "like saying an elephant walked through your living room and you never no-



Disaster zone: A policeman rescues victims in the flooded city of Guiyang In southern China. Torrential rains and raging floods have killed more than a hundred people, destroyed tens of thousands of homes and swamped huge areas of farmland

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The world's largest platinum producer, South Africa's Rustenburg Platinum Mines, has dismissed thousands of striking workers who defied a court order to return to

work, a company official said yesterday.
The mine owners, Anglo American Platinum Corp Ltd (Amplats), said it had dismissed 3,600 workers yesterday. after sacking 13,000 miners out of a total workforce of 28,000 on Monday. The mine, 90 miles north-west of Johannesburg, said it was losing 13.5 million mind (£1.9m) a day as a result of the strike which began on Thesday last week. Reider - Johannesburg

The leader of eastern Germany's post Communists is to be grilled by parliament about his alleged links with the Stasi. Gregor Gysi, the Bundestag leader of the Party of Democratic Socialism, is accused of maintaining links with the east German security service for 10 years up until 1989—while he worked as a lawyer defending dissidents Mr.
Gysi's deputy, Christa Luft, is also under investigation, and both might have to give up their seats if the accusations are backed up by evidence. Imre Karacs - Boun

A 57-year-old father sentenced to a life term six years.

Ago in the first US court case to involve the use of repressed memory, was to walk free yesterday. Prosecutors said they would not seek to retry George Franklin. found guilty of murder by a unanimous jury some in 1990-after his adult daughter claimed to have suddenly remembered his killing of her childhood playmate 20 years before.

A US judge overturned Mr Franklin's conviction last

year, saying he tad not had a fair trial and citing evidence that his daughter, Eileen Franklin-Lipster, 29, could have picked up details of her friend's death from newspaper. cuttings. Tim Cornwell - Los Angeles

An autopsy performed on Margaux Herningway failed to answer lingering questions about why the model turned actress died alone in her beachside apartment. The examination was unremarkable and did not reveal any indication of trauma or foul play," the coroner's office said in a statement on Tuesday. Toxicological tests were ordered and it will be at least two weeks before they are completed, the coroner's office said. AP - Santa Monics

Thirty-times people were still seriously III in hospital yesterday after a Ukrainian tram crash which killed 32 people on Tuesday. Altogether 121 people were hart in the accident. President Leonid Kuchina declared yesterday a day of mourning as flags flew at half-mast in Kiev and other Ukrainian cities. Renter - Kiev

India's federal police said they had charged three for-leigners and an Indian with running a child procedution ring through an orphanage in the seaside tourist haven of Goa. A spokesman said that between 1980 and 1991, the accused were alleged to have procured 27 boys from poor families and used the orphanage in the western state as a front for a prostitution ring. The police said charges were filed last week against an Indian doctor, an Australian, a New Zealander and a Swette. Reaser - New Della

Thing has executed 1,000 people in just the first two Cmonths of a crime crackdown and Annesty laterna tional said Peking looked set to break its own record this. year for carrying out the world's most executions. The human rights group urged China yesterday to halt the wave of what it called "state killing". Renter Paking

'wo lapanese woman who want to become men have been told the treatment they seek it medically legiti-mate, but can't be carried out because Japanese society is not ready for it. A medical ethics committee at Sattama Medical College, west of Tokyo, made national headlines by becoming the first such group to accept sex change as a legitimate medical treatment for people with a permanent desire to change their sex AP - Tokket

Finnish organisers of an annual Arctic challenge in bare-handed mosquito-killing said a lack of insects had forced them to cancel the event, "Hardly any of the necessary live games equipment imosquitees! has been found in the region," organisers of the World Championships in Mosquito Killing, staged in the Lapland salage of Mosquito Killing, staged in the Lapland salage of Pelkosenniemi, said. A spokesmin said a cold summer might be to blame. Up to 40 contestants have in the past stripped to the waist in a challenge to squash as many mosquitoes as possible in five minutes. Hastari. Runter

The Right Rev Ross Hook

In 1939, Ross Hook and Maurice Wood were the redoubtable second-row forwards in the rugger side at Ridley Hall, Cambridge. After ordination, they both went on to be RNVR chaplains, were both decorated on active service and both in due course became diocesan

Hook remained a robust and energetic figure for the whole of his active ministry. He was a "man's man" and laity warmed to him as a human being who was approachable and tremendous fun. His roots were in Kent where his family had long associations with Komney Marsh. He was an enthusiastic cricketer and was never happier than when watching Kent playing on home ground at Canterbury.

In 1980, Dr Robert Runcie hecame Archbishop of Canterbury. He soon saw that the rapidly increasing demands coming upon him as Primate, both internationally and nationally, made it imperative that he should not only devolve some of his responsibilities on

should have at Lambeth an experienced bishop in whom those in Whitehall and Parliament would have confidence and with whom the Diocesan Bishops would be happy to consult. He invited Ross Hook. by then Bishop of Bradford, to undertake what was a pioneer appointment.

The fact that the office of Bishop at Lambeth is now an accepted post on the Archbishop's staff, is due in no small measure to Hook, who had the grace to relinquish the independence of a diocesan bishop and to serve the Archbishop as his "Chief of Staff" and as an assistant bishop of Canterbury. His soundness of judgment as well as his refusal to be fussed or to appear as over-busy, meant that when he retired from Lambeth it was to everyone's regret.

Ross Hook was the son of a postmaster. He was educated at Christ's Hospital and at Peterhouse, Cambridge. After train-

senior members of the House ing for the ministry he was of Bishops, but also that he ordained in 1941 to his only curacy at New Milton in Hampshire. In 1943 he volunteered as an RNVR chaplain and served with the Royal Marines, land-ing with 43 Commando at Anzio. He was the only RNVR chaplain to win an MC, which he did while serving with the Marines in Yugoslavia.

After the war, he returned to

Cambridge as Chaplain at Ridley Hall, where his war experience stood him in good stead with an older generation of students who had embarked on training for ordination after being demobilised. One of his students, an ex-Royal Marine, recalls that Hook, who was re-sponsible for teaching church history, managed to keep one lecture ahead of his lively audience. He had the reputation of being a great leg-puller, but his penetrating and always kindly humour was especially appreciated by those who found it difficult to adjust to the routine of lectures and chapel

his first living at Choriton-cum-Hardy in Manchester diocese, before returning south in 1952 to be Rector and Rural Dean of Chelsea and to live in a large gracious rectory with an immense garden by London standards. It was a great inheritance, and catching the spirit of the post-war world Hook established an informal and personal ministry which won him

many triends. In 1961 he left London to return to Kent as a Canon Residentiary of Rochester Cathedral and as director of post-ordination training for the diocese. He had the oversight of nearly 100 curates and he was also on the staff of Rochester Theological College which had been established for the training of older men from industry and the professions, most of whom had little academic background.

These men warmed to Hook's relaxed and friendly approach but soon learned that he had high expectations for

Three years later, he went to them and little patience with indiscipline or disorder. He was an examining chaplain to the Bishop of Rochester as he was later to the Bishop of Lincoln who, in 1965, nominated him to be the Suffragan Bishop of

After only seven years in Lincolnshire, Hook was translated to Bradford. He was quickly at home in the West Riding where his robustness and his forthright approach were much appreciated, especially by those with little interest in ecclesiastical affairs. After he had moved South again, as Runcie's "Chief of Staff", Bradford University conferred an honorary

degree upon him. In 1984, after four years at Lambeth Palace, Hook retired to his beloved Ronney Marsh and began to rejoice again in the Kent countryside and in Kent cricket. Sadly, after a few years, he suffered a stroke which eventually led to his moving out of the county.

After the war, he had married Ruth Biddell, who supported Dorset 26 June 1996.

him to the full in all his demanding appointments and in the more restricted years after his retirement and illness. She survives him as do his daughter and his son, known to many television viewers as an expert on pictures through the BBC's Anaiques Roadshow.

+ David Say

Ross Sydnes Hook, priest born 19 February 1917; ordained deacon 1941, priest 1942; MC 1945; Chaplain, Ridley Hall, Cambridge 1946-48; Rector, Charlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester 1948-52; Rector and Rural Dean, Chelsen 1952-61; Chaplain, Chelsen Hospital for Women 1954-61. St Luke's Hospital, Chelsea 1957-61; Residentiary Canon of Rochester and Pro-centor 1961-65; Bishop Suffragan of Grantham 1965-72; Bishop of Brudford 1972-80; Chief of Staff to Archishop of Canterbury 1980-84: Assistant Bishop, Dio-cese of Canterbury 1981-94: mar-ried 1948 Ruth Biddell (one son, one daughter); died Blandford,



Photograph: Hulton Getty



Photograph: Camera Press

In 1970, when I was about to leave the Conservative Research Department for the Speciator, Michael Fraser invited me to lunch. I was suitably flattered, since he was the deputy chairman of the party, and I was a simple desk officer in my department's (then) offices in Old Queen Street. Naturally, therefore, I accepted the invitation.

"Which club, dear boy?" he said. I was a trifle confused by that. Belonging to no club myself, I had rather assumed that we would be eating at that great haunt of Tory grandees, the Carlton. While I hesitated, he decided to help me.

"Between us," he said. "my brother and I belong to 10 clubs. We dine, or lunch, at one or the other together each month. Pick your club." We settled for St Stephen's. When we were enjoying pre-prandial drinks. Fraser looked around with a certain air of satisfaction. 'Nice little place, this," he said. "Now, you're a good trencher-

of wine? Yes, we shall." Lest this story suggests the picture of a bibulous man, I should mention, immediately, Fraser's method of conducting business. He always carried with him a small traveller's of departmental officers while clock. At the outset of a meet-

man. Shall we have two bottles

ing he would set the clock. The moment it pinged, the meeting was over. It did not matter whether he had two people, or a dozen, with him: if you had not made your point within his designated time, you had lost your

He was the most awesomely efficient man with whom I have ever worked. And, in effect, he ran the machinery of the Conservative Party for many years. It was said of him, for example, that he used to slip around from Conservative Central Office, in Smith Square, to Old Queen Street to check on the in-trays they were out to lunch. He is also renowned for having turned down the applications for jobs at the Research Department by Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean, on the grounds that both men were

Lord Fraser of Kilmorack

Communist agents". Michael Fraser was an Aberdonian, and carried with him, throughout his life, a good deal of the character of that city of granite. He enjoyed no privileges, for his parents were poor. He volunteered for war service in 1939, and emerged from the conflict as a colonel. He said that his upbringing in Aberdeen Grammar School was more important to the development of in any event, like many oth-er young men in 1946, he found himself without a job. Following native political instincts, he applied to the Conservative Party. His gifts for organisation and diplomacy were quickly recognised, and he rose from a junior job at the Research Department to the deputy chairmanship of the party. All along, he enjoyed the absolute confidence of the leaders of his party, for his discretion was complete, and his silence as to

any indiscretions absolute. John Biffen once suggested that Fraser would make an admirable Secretary to the Cabinet. The idea was put to the man

in 1970, just after the general election. He turned it down immediately. "I serve the party," he said, "not some bloody state." Yet, when I last saw him at a drinks party at Conservative Central Office, and asked him whether he felt at all nostalgic he replied, "For this dump? Not bloody likely."

In his retirement Michael Fraser enjoyed many things. His directorships - notably of Glavo - brought financial se-cuirity; and his involvement with the Opera House, and Covent Garden generally, gave him peace after years of disci-

with a warm, if sometimes exasperated, glow.

Patrick Cosgrave

Richard Michael Frasez, party political administrator: born Aberdeen 28 October 1915: MBE (Mil) 1945, CBE 1955; Kt 1962: Deputy Chairman. Conservative Party Organisation 1964-75: Secretars, Conservative Leader's Consultative Committee (Shadow Cabines) 1964-70, 1974-75; Deputy Chairman, Conservative Party's Advisory Committee on Policy 1970-75; created 1974 Baron Fraser of Kilmorack; married 1944 Chloë Drummond pline. Anybody who worked (one son and one son decrased); with him will remember him died London I July 1996.

Paul Peter Piech

and printer Paul Peter Piech was campaigner but what interestfor a new way of life in America. From their tough example Piech learnt both to work hard and to speak out when it mattered. His books and posters confront the viewer with the Avery Ltd, the scales manufacneed for global responsibility and co-operation. One piece borrows the words of John Donne, "Any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind."

Piech studied at the Cooper Union College of Art, New York. In 1937 he went to work as a graphic artist at Dorlands Advertising Agency under Herbert Bayer. During the Second World War he was posted to Cardiff with the United States Eighth Army Air Force. Among his duties, he was called upon to paint images of glamorous blondes on to the front of the aircraft - to match the planes'

affectionate female nicknames. In Wales he met Irene Tomkins, a young nurse and midwife. When asked if she would like to return to New York as a GI bride she replied, "No thanks." So Piech stayed in Britain and they were married in 1947. A GI education grant enabled him to study further at the Chelsea College of Art. Between 1951 and 1968

Some remarkable individuals rector for W.S. Crawfords Adkeep on believing, throughout vertising. In retrospect it may their lives, that the world could seem an odd choice of profeschange for the better. The artist sion for a committed political one such man. He was born in ed Piech, quite apart from the Brooklyn in 1920, the son of thrill of deadlines to which he Ukrainian immigrants looking could apply his boundless energy, was the chance to communicate to as wide an audience as possible. He made his name in advertising circles with a campaign for W. & T. turers of Birmingham. In all his work he showed a gift for designs that compelled the viewer to look hard and disentangle

> In 1959 Piech was keen to find a way of disseminating the kind of information that had no place in a profession geared to promoting Supersoft shampoo. To this end he set up his own press. the Thurus Press. Over the next decade he accumulated a Gem proofing press and other commercially redundant letterpress printing equipment, In the early years he used metal type to set his texts but he became increasingly attached to his own rough and expressive

linocut lettering. He printed his linocut images alongside the wise words of John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King or the crass boasts of Richard Nixon. In 1979 the American Embassy protested at Piech's treatment of the United States flag. He had turned it sideways to illustrate it as prison bars above the caption "My country 'tis of thee, sweet land



of liberty". When, however, he produced a poster of Nixon with the word "Dicktator" inscribed above his head, it was purchased by the Library of



Hollywood mogul, 1885; Gertrude Lawrence (Gertrud Alexandra Dag-mar Lawrence Klasen), actress, 1898;

Eric Gill once defined the pri-vate press as a press which Never a recluse, he always prints solely what it chooses made time to stop work and rather than what its customers talk, whether to supermarket demand. The Taurus Press ex- cashiers or the curious passersemplified the kind of contribu- by who peered into his "press tion that a private press can recom? make to modern society. It published numerous, seithers mark in garages. In his series of works by William Blake for insuburban homes, in Middlesex, stance, not to mention *De Pro*Herefordshire and Wales, he fundis: the sayings of Jesus Christ a long-lost and idyffic past. A. hilarious book on the horror of car drivers, Ugly Pieces of Metal (1975), was produced with a text by William J. Leahy. This offers no reminders of green and pleasant lands but unsettles the viewer with its urban depictions of traffic jams and

road rage.
The University of Salzburg was to take a particular interest in Piech's work and published some of his later books. including a collecton of John Gurney's poems, Coal, a Sonnet Sequence (1994), with Piech illustrations. This publication marked the closure of Tower Colliery, the last coalmine in

From 1968 Piech worked freelance as a graphic artist but he also taught in numerous art schools including Chelsea, the London College of Printing and Leicester, where he reputedly made the artist Edward Bawden flinch by insisting on re-ferring to him as "Eddy". Piech loved the contact with young

Piech did not crave the pernever ignored history, it re-fect studio. He was happy to would spend evenings cutting (1972), but it did not trade on his lettering direct on to the lino, a book-collector's nostalgia for whilst keeping one eye on Coronation Seed. It was a family joke that this morning. Once the presents were open Piech went back to his proofs.

His fellow printer and writer Kenneth Hardacre once described the urgency of Piech's output as that of "a man whose need to communicate his faith and his fears was so pressing that it often appeared to be impatient with the very means he had chosen for expressing that need".

In our current climate of fin de siècle despair at the state of the world Paul Peter Piech stood out as a man who knew how to turn any anger about man's inhumanity to man into creative work with a disturbing

Lottie Hoare

Paul Peter Piech, artist and printer: born Brooklyn, New York 11 February 1920: married 1947 Irene Tomkins (one daughter); died Porthcawl, Mid-Glamorgan 31 May 1996.



Births, **Marriages** & Deaths

Piech worked as an artistic di-

BIRTHS

BEAZLEY-LONG: On 26 June to Sally (née Newport) and Graham a daughter, Anna June, a sister for Alexander. BRAMLEY: To Steven and Ann.

Nathan Guy, a brother for Max and Felix, on 28 June at John Raddiffe

Announcements for Gazetic BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DÉATHS should be sent in writing to the Gazetic Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (answering machine 0171-293 2012) or fixed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Queets fields an investigate at the Paince of Helproofhouse, and accompanied by The Dules of Edithburgh, cives a garden party at the palace. The Dules of Edithburgh, Chancellor, with the Palace. The Dules of Edithburgh, Chancellor, with the Palace. The Dules of Edithburgh, Chancellor, with the Palace. Edithburgh University. The Princess Rays, Paron, British Executive Server Overseas, attends as an-Edinorph University. The Princess Bayes, Patron, british Executive Service Overtiens, astends as an usal reception at the Poreign and Commonwealth Office, London SWI; is president, the Princess Royal Trust for Carera, attends a meeting of the Committee of Brasicas at \$1 Nowage Street, London ECI. The Dulle of Gloscoster presents the Outen's Awards for Export to Parkman Consultants at the Institution of Cwil-Engineery, London SWI. The Outens of Cwil-Engineery, London SWI. The Outens of Childrents reasons long service awards for an advantagement of the Institution.

Changing of the Guard The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Choca's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11 am; 1st Battalook Welch Guards, 11 Amounts the Queen's Guard. at Backlaghane Palace, 11 Alum, bond provided by the Coldstream Guards. Birthdays

Prince Michael of Kent, 54; King Tau-fa'ahau Tupou IV of Tonga, 78; The Duke of Abercorn, Lord-Lieutenant of Co Tyrone, 62; M René Arnoux, Grand Prix driver, 48; Lord Barber, former Chancellor of the Exchequer, 76; Mr Alec Bedser, cricketer, 78; Mr Eric Bedser, cricketer, 78; Mr Tony van den Bergh, writer and broadcaster, 80; Dr Roger Berry MP, 48; Mr Richard Clothier, chief executive, Dalgety, 51; Mr Barry Field MP, 50; Mr Alastair Goodlad MP, Parliamentary Secretary, HM Treasury and Government Chief Whip, 53; Lord Hankey, former diplomat, 91; Mr Roy Henderson, bantone, 97; Mr David Jensen, television presenter, 46; Miss Gina Lollobrigida, actress, 69; The Hon Francis Mande, former Government Minister, 43; Sir George Newman, High Court judge, 55; Sir Paul Scoon, former Governor-General of Grenada, 61; Miss Pan Shriver, tennis player, 34; Mr Neil Simon, playwright, 69, Professor Sir Michael Stoker, former President, Clare Hall, Cambridge, 78; Mr Col-in Welland, actor and playwright, 62; Lord Wyatt of Weeford, chairman, Horserace Totalisator Board, 78.

Anniversaries Births: Jean-Pierre Blanchard, balloonist, 1753; Nathaniel Hawthome, author, 1804; Giuseppe Garibaldi, Italian leader, 1807; Dr Thomas oho Barnardo, philanthropist, 1845; Francis Montague (Frank) Holl, portrait painter, 1845; Walter Greaves, painter, 1846; James Anthony Bulley, circus proprietor, 1847; Joseph Pennell, etcher and author, 1860; Hugo Winckler, Assyriologist, 1863; John Calvin Coolidge, 30th US President, 1872; Louis Burt Mayer,

Daniel Louis Armstrong, jazz trum-peter and singer, 1900; Lionel Trilling, author and educationist, 1905. Deaths: Bencivieni di Pepo (Giovanni Cimabue), painter, 1302; Ortelius (Abraham Oertel), cartographer, 1598; William Byrd, organ ist and composer, 1623; Samuel Richardson, novelist, 1761: Richard Cosway, miniature painter, 1821; John Adams, second US President 1826; Thomas Jefferson, third US President, 1826; James Monroe, fifth US President, 1831; Viscomte François-René de Chateaubriand, politician and writer, 1848; Marie Curie (Marja Sklodowska), chemist, 1934; Suzanne Lenglen, tennis player, 1938; Louis Wain, illustrator of cats, 1939, Władysław Sikorski, prime minister of Poland, in an air crash 1943; Bernard Cyril, first Baron Freyberg, Governor-General of New Zealand, 1963. On this day: Saladin

defeated the Crusaders at the Battle of Tiberias, 1187; the Barebones Parliament began sitting, 1653; the American Declaration of Indepen-dence was adopted, 1770; the US Military Academy was opened at West Point with 10 cadets, 1802; work on the Erie Canal began, 1817; the first Cunard steamship, the Britannia, sailed from Liverpool to Halifax and Boston, 1840; Karl Heinrich Marx and Friedrich Engels published the Communist Manifesto, 1848; the Statue of Liberty was presented by the people of France to the US, 1883; the construction of the Panama Canal began, 1904; Hanna Reitsch made the first successful flight in a helicopter. Germany, 1937; the Republic of the Philippines was es-tablished, 1946. Tuday is Indepen-

dence Day in the United States of America and the Feast Day of St Andrew of Crese, St Bertha of Blangy, St Elizabeth of Portugal, St Odo of Canterbury, St Ulric of Angsburg and The Martyrs of Dorchester.

National Gallery: Alexander Sturgis "Summer Loving (i): Niccold dell'Abate, The Death of Eurydice",

Victoria and Albert Museum: Mar-tin 'Harrison, "William Morris: stained glass and church decoration", Tate Gallery: Clement Page. "Eduardo Paolozzi", 1pm. British Museum: Susan Woodford, "The Sculptures of the Parthenon",

Dinners

Foreign and Commonwealth Office Mr Jeremy Hanley MP, Minister of State for Foreign and Common-wealth Affairs, hosted a dinner yes-terday evening at Lancaster House, London SW1, in honour of Mr Amre Moussa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Admiral Sir Jock Stater, the First Sea Lord, yesterday evening presided at the Trinity Term Dinner of the Navy Board at Admiralty House, London SW1. Among those present were: SW1. Among those present were:
Admiral Sir Peter Abbott; Rear-Admiral Jerenty Blackham; Sir Christopher Rianch Admiral Sir Michael Boyes; Professor Sir John Cadogan. Sir Paul Condon; Sir Ruchard Evans. Li-Gen Sir John Foley; Vice-Admiral Sir Ibby Frere; Mr Eddie George; Sir David Hardy; Mr Roger Jackling; Mr Hunry Lambert: Mr Richard Mottram; Sir Reigh Robbis; Rear-Admiral Fred Scourse; The Rev Francia Walnaley.

No damages for breach of European law

Home Department, ex parte Gallagher, Court of Appeal (Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice Aldous) 10 June 1996

The making of an exclusion order against a person suspected of being concerned in acts of terrorism without first allowing him to make representations objecting to the order and to be interviewed by a person nominated by the Home Secretary was a breach of European Community law but it was not a sufficiently serious breach to justify a claim for

The Court of Appeal refused an application by John Gallagher for leave to amend his 27 September the Home Secapplication for judicial review against the Home Secretary in order to add a claim for damages.

The application followed a decision in Mr Gallagher's favour by the European Court of Justice, on 30 November 1995, that in passing the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1989 the UK failed to give effect to Council Directive 64/221/EEC with the result that he was, as he claimed, unlawfully excluded from the UK.

LAW REPORT

4 July 1996

Robin Allen QC, Peter Duffy and Tim request, Mr Gallagher and his Eicke (Bindman & Pers) for the apsolicitors attended at the plicans; David Pannick QC and Mark Shaw (Treasury Solicitor) for the

Sir Thomas Bingham MR said that in 1983 Mr Gallagher had been sentenced in the Republic of Ireland to three years' imprisonment for possession of two rifles for unlawful purposes. After his release, he came to the UK to work. On 25 September 1991 he was arrested and detained at Paddington Green police station under section 14 of the 1989 Act. On retary made an exclusion order

against him under section 7 and Schedule 2 of the Act. Mr Gailagher was informed of his right to make written representations to the Home Secretary setting out any obiections to the order and to request a personal interview with a person nominated by the Home Secretary, but for pressing personal reasons Mr Gallagher consented to his removal and was flown to Ireland the next day.

On 6 December 1991, at his

British Embassy in Dublin and made oral representations to a person nominated by the Home Secretary. On 10 March 1992, the Home Office in-

ered his representations and the report of the nominated person but had decided not to revoke the exclusion order. Mr Gallagher applied for judicial review. The matter was referred to the European Court which ruled that, save in cases of urgency, the making of an exclusion order should follow, and not precede, the mak-

ing of representations by, and

formed Mr Gallagher that the

Home Secretary had consid-

the interviewing of, a person at risk of exclusion. It was a cardinal principle of Community law that the laws of member states should provide effective and adequate redress for violations of Community law by member states where these resulted in infringement of specific individual rights conferred by

Community law The law of the Community on this subject was still at a for-

Paul Magrath, Barrister

mative stage but it appeared

that the present case was plain-ly one in which a member state

had incorrectly transposed a

Community directive into na-

tional law and therefore that,

in accordance with the Euro-

pean Court's rulings in Exparte

Factoriame (No 4) [1996] 2

WLR 506 and Ex pane British

Telecom (Case C-392/93) (un-

reported, 26 March 1996), the

applicant had to show, inter

alia, that the UK's violation

of Community law was "suffi-

ciently serious" to warrant

Mr Gallagher claimed that

he had been deprived of pro-

cedural sateguards which, had

they been observed, might have

given him a better chance of se-

curing a favourable result. But

there was nothing to suggest

that the Home Secretary's de-

cision would have been any dif-

ferent had he received Mr

Gallagher's representations

and the interviewer's report be-

fore making the exclusion or-

der. It was clear that after

receiving them, he had con-

sidered the case de novo, and

that even if the correct proce-

dure had been followed the

outcome would have been the



A weak slogan that reveals the admen's limits

ne million pounds for four about New Labour in a partisan Tory words? Surely not. But yes, that's how much the bright and brilliant down at Conservative Central Office have seen fit to spend on their new advertising slogan; "New Labour, New Dangers.

Given the enormity of the task facing the Conservatives, and the importance to them of turning around pub-lic opinion, it may seem like money well spent. (Though if they'd asked around Fleet Street, there are quite a few who would have thought up something similar on a wet afternoon for rather less than that.) But the Tories' bigger problem is the assumption that political problems can be sorted out by calling the ad-men - that a slogan can deal with a crisis of confidence.

"Labour isn't working," the Conservatives' slogan in 1979, was a breakthrough for Saatchi and Saatchi and one of the all-time memorable campaigns. "Labour's tax bombshell" had the country talking in 1992. But they were both based on strong perceptions generally present already - public dis-taste for the winter of discontent and serious unease about Labour's shadow budget. They were examples of a basic truth about advertising: that it can exaggerate and amplify something that is already there, but it cannot create a

desire or demand out of nothing. Which brings us to the new slogan. There are many things one could say

spirit, which are at least debatable. A Conservative critic could say that it is bland, or pithless, or lacking in intellectual self-confidence; that it is woolly, or a mimicry of Toryism; that New Labour has no central purpose; that some of its proposed reforms of the country are ill-thought-out and will come apart at the stitches. Whether or not one agreed with those criticisms, they are at least worth talking about. But of all the possible criticisms of Tony Blair, the idea that he is dangerous, a wild radical threat to our way of life, is among the least persuasive on offer. Quite why the Conservatives have chosen this line of attack is a mystery.

At any rate, here we are back talking about strategies. Activists and ideological purists wince at this obsessive interest among the metropolitan professionals in the flam of politics, rather than the meat. How often have we heard Labour traditionalists moaning about their party's reverence for opinion polls, focus groups and advertising gurus? Moral content, direction and good old policies are quickly drowned out in the search for a "message" to woo those crucial voters.

But all the political parties are actually doing with their focus groups and polls is listening to voters. If, having heard what voters are saying, they adapt their policies and their slogans accordingly, then democracy is not



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damaged. Competition among car manufacturers generates new cars that better reflect drivers' demands and desires. If political parties adapt in the same way to win votes, the result should be a more responsive political framework in which the more voters get something they want.

Nor does this responsive approach necessarily create reactive political parties. As any good business leader knows, the real money pours in when you can anticipate, lead and define a new market. Margaret Thatcher did it. Tony Blair seems to be doing it too.

There is no reason either why moral

values need be compromised along the way. Unlike cars or soap powders, political parties are value-laden products. They are selling a set of values to voters as well as a set of policies. And as voters are committing themselves to this particular product (a government) for up to five years, they have to be convinced that those values will be consistently pursued. In other words they need to be sure that the team (the MPs) who will be running the show genuinely believe in those values too. Changing party values at the flick of a pollster's

pen doesn't fool anyone. Hence Labour's metamorphosis over

the last 10 years has been slow, steady going. In 1992, no matter what the then shadow chancellor, John Smith, said about fiscal prudence, voters were easily convinced that most Labour MPs still wanted to spend, spend, spend, and tax, tax, tax. Four years later, with not a spending commitment in sight, the message on fiscal prudence is far more plausible.

Tony Blair's greatest achievement in the last few years has been to use inter-nal party debates such as that over Clause 4 to demonstrate to voters quite how "new" Labour now is. Judging from their new slogan, the Con-servatives believe him. Or at least they think voters believe him, which is why they have changed tack themselves.

But a good slogan and a great advertising campaign are worthless if the thinking behind them is not convincing. In the end voters will only accept a neat slogan, or a short sound bite, if it resonates with their underlying percep-

tions about what is going on. Hence the Conservatives failure to land a punch on Tony Blair so far. Previous claims that, in power, Blair would be pushed aside by the mad old socialists were simply not plausible; there were too few of them and and they were not mad enough. "Yes it hurt, yes it worked" was only a little more persuasive. We know that Ken Clarke's tax increases hurt, but we are not convinced they are working. Even if the ers, smashing their way into the semis.

economy is looking up, we are not inclined to see the tax rises as the cause. It is not impossible that the Conser-

vatives, casting around for a strategy to hurt New Labour, will come up with a killer slogan eventually. They and their advertising men are very tough, very professional. But as they reflect upon new slogans and campaign themes both parties need to beware. The marketisation of politics is all very well, so long as politicians remember what sophisticated shoppers voters really are.

Making a racket at Wimbledon

There is something wrong with us. We freely confess it. When Cliff Richard led the spontaneous sing-song at a rain-drenched Wimbledon, this newspaper collectively cringed. Our huge tower at Canary Wharf visibly winced. Why was this? There is nothing more English than a good old sing-song, everybody jollily joining in, while the rain beats down. The trouble is, we fear, that it was so buttock-clenchingly naff.

For that is how the rest of the world too often sees us: a nation of cheery losers, belting out nostalgic songs in a downpour. Personally speaking, we'd much prefer a few ruthless tennis play-

- LETTERS TO THE EDITOR -

Standards of safety for airlines

Sir: Christian Wolmar is correct that the standards of "start-up" airlines such as Easyjet are enforced by the Civil Aviation Authority ("Safety worry as 'no-frill' airlines take off in UK". 1 July). However, his claim that there are no "flags of convenience" in the airline industry is far from

The December 1994 crash near Coventry airport was that of an Algerian registered aircraft chartered by a UK company. The Air Accident Investigation Branch subsequently identified the use of an overworked crew as a contributory factor. Additionally, the crash near the Dominican Republic last February was that of an aircraft chartered by a Dominican carrier, from a Turkish airline, bound for Germany.

In both cases the aircraft were operated outside the country of registration. The rules of the International Civil Aviation Organisation state that the host country cannot investigate safety standards as the country of registry has promised to enforce the accepted minimum standards, under its flag. Indeed the EU possesses less powers to enforce safety standards on to external airlines than it does on to shipping.

A solution currently being proposed is an EU "black list" of states failing to adhere to pre-determined standards. Such a list has been adopted by the US Federal Aviation Administration. The FAA, however, did not apply the same rigorous safety standards to its internal airlines as it applied externally. If ValuJet had been from outside the US, its flights would have been halted long ago because of its dreadful safety record before the Florida air

The FAA, like the CAA, was responsible for promoting the airline industry as well as regulating its safety. In a regularised market this may be possible. In a liberalised market (as the US became in the Eighties and as the EU is becoming) the two tasks may well be incompatible.

Providing the proposed EU powers rigorously enforce safety standards on both EU and non-EU airlines, passengers will have less cause for concern about airlines that they fly on, regardless of the price they paid. DINOS KYROU Department of International Relations University of Aberdeen

Sir: Regarding Christian Wolmar's article, not only is it nonsense to suggest that "no frills" airlines compromise on safety, it is also an insult to pilots, maintenance organisations and all the many extremely experienced professionals involved in the running of an airline.

Safety is of paramount importance at any airline - big, small, independent, state-owned, high yield or low yield. Any accident is one too many, but it is worth noting that the short-haul airlines in Europe and the US. boast a safety record equal or. better than that of the established,

major airlines. At our airline we fly modern British Aerospace 146s, aircraft that are younger than may of the major airlines' fleets. Indeed, at Debonair our aircraft receive more attention than our passengers.



Furthermore, the BAe 146 has an

excellent safety record.
"No frills" essentially means that oassengers go without alcoholic drinks and fancy meals. Passengers compromise this for a low fare. They certainly do not compromise their safety. Fortunately, we can count on the millions and millions of passengers who fly each year when it comes to determining how safe it is to fly. FRANCO MÁNCASSOLA Chairman and Chief Executive Debonair Airways Luton, Bedfordshire

Britain can still show the way

Sir. Your leading article ("After empire, we badly need a new refrain", 29 June) served the important function of provoking thought, and the answer to your conundrum is, I think, rather simple. Britain does have a new role, and that is as an example of what can be done; a decoloniser that remains closely linked as an equal with virtually all its former colonies in an organisation that, it should be noted, a number of noncolonies are eager to join; and a "linguistically challenged" country whose native tongue is the only truly global language and whose overseas broadcasting service is probably the most trusted of all such agencies. The list could go on to include such successful "exports" as privatisation and many others.

There are, of course, concomitant responsibilities, which might perhaps be summed up as "being there when needed", whether that is supporting the weak through Britam's permanent membership of the UN Security Council, or helping to end a war in the Balkans by contributing a substantial part of our armed forces, or protecting small countries from predatory neighbours, or (lastly and topically) fighting for a better deal for the most indebted countries through our membership of G7.

We know that Britain is not perfect, externally or internally, bu because we have something to offer, it is our duty to to offer it. BRIAN H GILL London SE8

Riotous art

Sir: Colin Tweedy of the Association of Business Sponsorship of the Arts is right to value the ways in which the arts enrich our lives but his work will fail until the arts do inspire us "to riot in Trafalgar Square".

For the arts to earn respect they must be feared: in its day Verdi's Nabucco, currently at Covent Garden, was recognised as an exposé of political repression; as recently as the Sixties Euripides' version of Electra caused riots in Paris. Where are the works to inspire us now? Government funding of the arts is diminished to stifle dissenting voices, but the arts will not generate support and funding until they find a way to connect with our real concerns. Only then will the arts shed the élitist lag. PAUL ARROWSMITH London W9

Legislation for BT regulation

Sir: Your Business comment "BT needs to be held in check" (28 June) underestimates the issues surrounding the anti-competitive powers being sought by Oftel in its current review of

telecommunications regulation. Contrary to your comment, BT of course accepts that Oftel has a role to play to ensure that telecom operators, including BT, trade fairly. All we are asking is that the powers to curb anti-competitive behaviour should be in a proper legal framework which does not enable Oftel to invent what is anti-competitive and which allows

for a right of appeal. Without that safeguard, as you concede, there is otherwise no protection against such powers being exercised in "an arbitrary or oppressive fashion".

As you correctly report, the tone of most reasoned comment on the issue has been that the regulator is going too far in asking for absolute powers. It is, in our view, in no one's interests for the regulator to act as prosecutor, judge, and jury, or for players in the industry to be denied the right of appeal on the merits of cases that could have an enormous impact on customers, shareholders, employees and competitors.

As you concede, there is no protection against such powers being exercised in an "arbitrary or oppressive fashion". If the Director-General is to take on the quasi-judicial function of

determining what is anticompetitive, his determinations should be susceptible of appeal in the same way as those of every other judicial and quasi-judicial

body in this country. You incorrectly assert that "there are already enough channels of appeal open to BT". specifically the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) and the courts. If these new proposals were accepted, reference to the MMC would no longer be available to BT. Judicial review is concerned only with the narrow legalities of a decision, it is not an appeal against a mistake or a misjudgement.

The regulator aiready has substantial powers to take action against anti-competitive behaviour, through BT's existing licence and fair trading law. The current regime is allegedly slow and cumbersome, BT has offered Oftel a "cease and desist" solution, under which Oftel could instruct BT to suspend a practice with immediate effect, pending a full investigation. Oftel has rejected this.

In fact, both BT and Oftel are in agreement on the optimum solution, which is for the Government to legislate to prohibit anti-competitive behaviour. This would, on the one hand, allow a right of appeal on the merits, and, on the other, make those who behaved anti-competitively pay fines and damages. COLIN R GREEN Secretary and Chief Legal Adviser

London ECI

Pay and stay

an evening".

andrew leech

Norwich, Norfolk

Internet crèche

Sir: Having expended the time and

home to the vast sea of information

Haughton and other parents must

accept the responsibility of regulating what comes through that connection (Section Two; "Is it safe

The Internet is a powerful tool

for the worldwide communication

of information, not a hi-tech crèche

for yuppie parents. Why should all

its users be expected to render their

material suitable for six-year-olds?

Ms Haughton would not let her

children use a power drill or a nail

regard her office computer in the same light. In the last resort she can

telephone. It is quite unreasonable

for the Internet to be hamstrung by

Communications Decency Act,

which could send people to prison

for using words regularly printed in

the Independent, just to provide Ms Haughton with "peace and quiet of

gun unsupervised; she should

always pull the plug to the

egislation such as the US

trouble necessary to connect her

that is the Internet, Emma

to let our children play in

cyberspace?" 1 July).

Sir. The director of the Natural History Museum is wrong to argue that overcrowding is necessarily due to increased attendance (Letters, 29 June). When entry was free, many people dropped in frequently for a few minutes. After paying, visitors are likely to stay longer and so change a trickle into a throng. TH HUGHES-DAVIES Breamore, Hampshire

Subversion of the rule of law

Sir. The Lord Chancellor's plans for reform of the legal aid system will, as you infer (3 July), lead to the poor and to the disadvantaged having to pay more for their lawyers. It will also have the inevitable practical effect of restricting access to the courts.

There is, though, a deeper danger. Points of important general principle, such as those engaged in the recent community care case involving the right of disabled persons to services, may never he itigated because of the ever present risk of having to pay the other side's costs if unsuccessful. In that way the rule of law becomes authorities are, as a result, more likely to make cynical and unlawful decisions knowing that judicial redress is a receding threat.

At a certain level, restriction of access to a court is, of course, a breach of Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights. But for a Government apparently determined never to incorporate the Convention into domestic law, this potential hazard is presumably no more than a minuscule consideration at the present stage. RICHARD GORDON, QC London, WC2

Choice in Northern Ireland

Sir. There is reason to hope that parallel British and Irish administrations in Northern Ireland might work better than parallel British and French rule in the New Hebrides (Letters: "Parallel systems in Vanuatu", 24 June and "Bizarre system of colonial rule", 27 June).

Where the population of Vanuatu could say "a curse on both your houses" to their colonial rulers, the inhabitants of Northern Ireland all recognise the legitimacy of either the British or the Irish state. Giving each individual in Northern Ireland the opportunity to be subject to the laws and administration of the state of their choice would not, therefore, be a colonial imposition.

Instead it would provide a democratic method of resolving the conflict through allowing the majority and minority communities to agree to differ, rather than resorting to a majority vote that might simply perpetuate the conflict.

Dr PETER HAYES ecturer in Politics University of Sunderland Thomhill Park, Sunderland

Churches of communion

Sir: What is all this fuss about Tony Blair receiving Communion in a Roman Catholic Church (report, 2

I have not only received Holy Communion in Roman Catholic churches several times, but I have frequently administered the Sacrament to Roman Catholics in Anglican churches and, what is more, have con-celebrated the **Eucharist with Roman Catholic** priests. They have done so with me too, by definition. Given the opportunities, I shall gratefully continue in this way. The Rev BEN HOPKINSON Stainton,

Middlesbrough

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Slickers and slackers

Some MPs are workers, while some are shirkers. Yet they are all in line for a £9,000 pay rise. It's time for our representatives' salaries to be performance-related, argues Anthony Bevins

of Westminster, there is a noticeboard for the Parliamentary Works Directorate: the backroom staff who keep the physical fabric of the Commons in good working order. By the side of two card-swipe machines on which staff clock in and out each day, the board sports a photocopy of the printed words of an 18th-century essayist. Sir Richard Steele: "Every man is the maker of his own fortune."

Scrawled alongside in felt-tip are the words. "No more overtime", and the sareastic con-clusion: "Morale is sky high." Today, the Prime Minister

will publish the much-trailed report of the Senior Salaries Review Body and its recommendation that MPs should award themselves a 26 per cent pay rise of £9,000 a year.

The difference between the MPs and the constituents they represent could not be more sweetly illustrated. Next week. MPs, unlike the Commons staff who are losing out on overtime, will be the makers of their own fortune: voting themselves a pay rise that hardly serves as a public example of the Government's demands for restraint.

MPs are not paid overtime. and they do not have to clock in and out each day. But what function. £34,085 pay is between them- horse is Quentin Davies, the selves, their whips, and their

one recent poll-suggested that all per cent of voters could not even name their MPs, never mind keep track of how hard

they worked. The pity is that some MPs are undoubtedly flogging their guts out, working long bours in recognition of the privilege of their democratic role. Some of them are so slick and efficient contribution to the Chamber,

But there are others who swing the lead and take the taxpayer, the voter, and Parliament for a ride. The problem is that today's pay rise recom-mendation will not distinguish between the slick and the slack.

Those MPs who spend much of their time outside Parliament, earning small fortunes in company boardrooms; those MPs who spend their time in the bars rather than the Chamber, committee rooms, or even the library: those MPs who swan off around the world on free trips hidden under legitimate auspices that do not need to be registered - none of them

There are Members who don't take the money and run, they just take the money

will be distinguished from the workhorses who try to make the Commons perform its proper

Tory MP for Stamford and Spalding. He is a City slicker in As for putting themselves both appearance and backabout in their constituencies. ground; first class graduate of Cambridge and Harvard, former diplomat, ex-director of Morgan Grenfell and Dewe Rogerson International.

In the last full parliamentary year. Mr Davies attended a record 111 sessions of various standing and select committees; vetting legislation and monitoring the activity of Government departments. For that they make a breathtaking good measure, he also shows

n a passageway deep in groups, constituencies – and the bowels of the Palace spare the time for outside work revolt against the Government. and a resolute Conservative defence of the European Union and One Nation Torvism - and maintain commercial links with the business world.

In the Register of Members' Interests, he includes service as an adviser to NatWest Securities, for which he declares payment of between £20,000 and £25,000, and a parliamentary consultancy with the Chartered Institute of Taxation, for which he gets between £10,000 and £15,000. Nevertheless, in terms of his parliamentary effort. Mr Davies is worth every last penny of his £34,085 pay, and he is not

The men and women who lead the Commons select committees that shadow each Government department, and the people who chair the standing committees which give line-byline examination of all Bills. clearly deserve their money. That is also the case with other MPs, Labour and Tory, who do not shirk the unglamorous but vital committee work. In the last session of Parliament, 31 Bills were examined in 209 standing committee meetings.

The slackers are in a minority, but a strong minority. There are also some MPs, particularly former cubinet ministers, who deem themselves far too grand ve on sta tees; others just do not put their names forward. They don't take the money and run, they just take it.

The House of Commons is a club, not a factory. While parliamentary staff clock on and off, MPs come and go as they please, subject only to the disciplines that may or may not be applied by the whips.

Certainly, as the Daily Mail discovered to its cost in 1978 when it had to settle, it is not possible to allege that MPs are absent from the House just because they are not attending that it is possible to provide a committees. If MPs are put on the committee corridor, party complete parliamentary ser- a committee and are then



absent, that can be proved because attendance is logged and recorded. If they do not belong to committees in the first place, absenteeism is impossible to prove.

Nevertheless, it is possible to say that MPs are silent or speechless in the Chamber of the House. Because Hansard records can prove such a statement one way or the other. expensive libel actions can be avoided.

On that basis, there was a report in 1983 that 10 MPs had left the Commons speechless. having "failed to record one spoken word in the Chamber of the House of Commons in the last session of Parliament".

Equally, it is a fact that Jack Aspinwall, the Conservative MP for Wansdyke, is not recorded as having spoken one word in the Chamber of the Commons for a full parlia-mentary year, from 27 April 1992 to 5 November 1993,

according to Hansard Indices. Mr Aspinwall, sadly, is a sick man and has been ill for some

Chamber silence for the whole of 1993. In the last year for which full returns are available. 1994-95, neither Mr Aspinwall nor Sir Julian are recorded as having served on any standing or select committee of the House of Commons.

According to the best parliamentary traditions, they are both Honourable Gentlemen and it can therefore be expected that they are delivering a full and dedicated service to their constituents.

But undoubtedly there are other MPs who do not give unreservedly to their constituents, and are not on any sick list. There are slackers as well as slickers in the House. One senior Labour MP said

vesterday that he knew of "stars" who delegated responsibility for constituency surgeries - where constituents seek MPs' advice and assistance - to local councillors.

When, or if, MPs go back to their constituencies, there is no way of knowing what service they provide. Nor is there any vears. He is said to figure on all Conservative sick lists, as does Sir Julian Critchlev who has a Sir Julian Critchley, who has a far-flung seats at a fixed Hunsard record of Commons expense-rate of 74.1p per mile.

b) Hoot angrily:

3. If you hoot angrily at a man

man gets out of the car in

front of you and comes walk-

ing round to your driver's

side looking very angry

a) Lock the doors and windows:

b) Lock the doors and win-

c) Laugh and point at your

over and hooted at you - noth-

ing I could do about it!";

d) Try and run him over?

indeed, should you:

mobile phone:

It is known for example, that some MPs drive to the far North and back, "earning" £500 or more for the trip. Receipts

are not required Who knows what MPs will be

If there was a rate matching supply and demand, MPs should consider a pay cut

doing during their 11-week sum-mer break from Westminster later this month? Who knows. following the introduction of, in effect, a three-day working week at Westminster, what they are doing with the rest of their time? MPs now are only required to attend the House from Mondays to Wednesdays, with few full-scale votes on Thursdays and the House often not sitting on Fridays.

MPs say they do go back to

are all Honourable Members. But who really knows?

The question that is now to be posed is: How should they be paid? Should the slicker, Mr Davies, be given the same pay as the slacker, who has to remain anonymous because of the libel laws?

What happens if we double. even treble, MPs' pay? Do we then increase their calibre twofold, threefold? How can we possibly guarantee that the quality of MPs would rise to match their emoluments, when MPs are effectively chosen not by the electorate, but by party selection committees?

Is it not possible to argue that those who are genuinely dedicated to public service should not need lavish pay and perks to go into the Com-mons? To which MPs might reply that they would be happy if they were paid as well as the political editor of the Independent newspaper.

When such questions were posed in the past Enoch Powell used to ask whether there was any shortage of contenders for selection as candidates. Of their constituencies, and, in the course there is not. If there was

traditions of the House, they a market rate, matching supply and demand, perhaps MPs should consider a pay cut.

There can be no greater indictment of the quality of the Commons than the two recent reports, from the European Legislation Committee and the Procedure Committee. showing how laws are now being passed unseen and undebated by Parliament, in Brussels and Whitehall. What happened to the great role of scrutiny MPs boast about?

It is no exaggeration to say that those two select committees represent the last defences

of a beleaguered democracy. Yet in the last session of Parliament, the recorded absentee rate from the European Legislation Committee was 38.3 per cent; for the Procedure Committee it was 35.4 per cent.

Perhaps the absent watchdogs should be put on the performance-related pay that Parliament has sanctioned for the rest of the public sector. For the moment, with few barks and little bite, some of them are not remotely worth the money they get, never mind a £9,000 pay rise.

ENTRY FORM

HAVE A HEART - SEND A PICTURE

The Heart of Britain Book. on sale in October 1996, will feature the 300 best photographs sent in by people like you. Just take your pictures between 1st July - 7th July and

send the best to us. Sporty or lazy, upbeat or quaint - it's up to you. There are nine sections in the book. Match one to each of your chosen pictures:

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	,
Photographic Comp	etition Entry Form
🛘 3 photographs for the Heart	of Britain Competition and enclose £2
🗓 10 photographs for the Hear	rt of Britain Competition and enclose £5
I agree to the terms and con	ditions detailed below:
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Address	
	Postcode
Signed	Date

i.Send completed entry forms, photographs and a cheque of postal order (payable to Heart of Britalin) to HEART OF SINTERN, OSPT NO. HEBTE PO BOX 588, TRING, HERTS 1972

TERMS AND CONDITIONS are advised to write first on a styley table before attacking to the photograph to accord by 31August 1986. Recogn of Acaphangin and photographs submitted is autigned to Reyal Bromston frogrand MSS Tord. Photographs can not be returned 5 Change date for applications of 21 July 1996. Guildge's decision of final No correspondence.

SO GET OUT THERE AND SNAP THE WINNER!

Stuck in a traffic jam? Try this quiz ...

ell, would you be able to pass a written driving test? If, after a) Wait: years of driving experience. you were suddenly sat down to take an exam paper, how would you do? Pretty well, you think? Here's your chance to find out! Just sit down and take this specially designed driving test paper (specially designed for people who think

they know it all). Note: if you are taking this test while driving along, with the paper on the seat between your knees and a pencil in your teeth, glancing down between overtaking cars, you are disqualified before you start.

1. When you see the slogan "Don't Drink and Drive", do you take this to mean: a) You shouldn't drive after you have had too much to drink:

b) You shouldn't drink and drive at the same time, as the bottle may get in the way of the steering wheel:
c) You should stick to drugs if you are driving.

you, and the lights turn green

4. Which of the following are current legal restrictions on a 2. If you are waiting at the lights, with a car in front of

Christmas tree being carried nome on the roof of your car? a) It should not be standing upright: b) It should not be rooted in 6. If you are stuck in a traf-

c) Drive repeatedly into him from behind until he gets in front of you who won't go even though the lights have turned green, and this very big

Miles Kington

earth on top of the car. e) It should not have presents tied to the branches; d) The lights on the tree should not be switched on.

dows and dial 999 on your 5. If three roads lead to a roundabout, and a car arrives at the roundabout at exactly passenger and then at the the same time on each of the horn and then shrug, as if to three roads, which car has the say. "My friend here leant right of way?

a) The one which forces its way on first: b) The one which doesn't stop: c) The one going fastest:

d) The one with the blue light on ton: e) Yours: f) The one driven by the man

with road rage?

hour, and you get so fed up that you get out and start walking about, and you get talking to a bloke in a van who likes the look of your car, and he makes you an offer for it, and you are so mad you decide to sell it there and then, and he hands over the cash and you start walking home, and just then the jam

tic jam on a motorway, which

doesn't move for over an

starts moving again, are you still responsible for getting the car out of there? Describe briefly the reasons for the answer you gave.

7. A small animal or bird (lies or runs in front of your car.

You think you may have hit it, though you hope not. What would you do? a) Do a U-turn and go to the

animal's assistance: b) Drive on: c) Drive on, but looking anxiously in the rear mirror for that tell-tale little body lying in

the road behind you until you run into the hack of a big slow lorry in front of you.

8. If you run into unexpected flood water, should you:

a) Go as fast as possible: b) Go as slowly as possible: c) Keep to starboard: d) Give way to older vehicles: e) Hoist the appropriate flag.

9. Under what circumstances can a vehicle be licensed for the performing of the mar-riage service inside?

a) If it is a chauffeur-driven limousine used for church purposes and the car is held up on the way to the service; b) If it is floating on flood water and you are the captain: c) If it is a circus caravan,

10. If you drive out of a motorway service area filling station and realise just as you reemerge on to the motorway that you forgot to pay for the petrol, what should you do? a) Reverse back up to the filling station;

b) Drive like hell; c) Hoist a big sign as soon as the police appear behind you say. ng: "ALL RIGHT COPPER. IKNOW IFORGOT TO PAY
SO SHALL I PULL OVER
TO THE HARD SHOULDER AND GIVE YOU A
CHEQUE OR WHAT?" Good luck!

The Labour leader bears his policy document like an anxious curator with a priceless vase. But on slippery ground, he is right to be cautious

onest manifestos tell the truth, and nothing but the truth. But they cannot tell the whole truth about a programme for government, especially for one intended to last more than one

Lord Howe's memoirs are eloquent about the lengths to which Margaret Thatcher went in resisting the incorporation into the 1979 manifesto of the apocalyptic Stepping Stones document drawn up for her two years earlier by John Hoskyns. Stepping Stones made the transformation of the trade unions the fulcrum of what Howe calls the "sea change in political economy" that it identified as the task of an

incoming Tory government. Mrs Thatcher agreed with almost every word of it. But she was deeply cautious about saying so publicly ahead of the election. Even when the unforeseen events of the preelection winter made unions the central issue of the day, she shrank from including its most far-reaching conclusions in the manifesto. Instead, as Howe says with masterly under-

Steady, Tony, it could still fall apart

statement, the Stepping Stones approach remained "available for

guidance in the years ahead". That isn't to say that the Road to the Manifesto which Tony Blair will unveil today masks, in any conventional sense, a hidden agenda. But it is a reminder of the shortcomings of opposition compared with the opportunities in government.

Describing Blair's passage to the election, Lord Jenkins recently offered guests at a Liberal Democrat dinner the analogy of a curator nervously carrying a priceless gossamerthin Ming vase across a newly pol-ished and treacherously slippery museum floor. There was an amicable criticism implicit in the image conjured by Jenkins; that Blair is too anxious about the perils of the journey, not risky enough in his impa-

tience to complete it. Blair doesn't see it that way; because for the Labour leader, every hostage given to a Tory press, every extravagant spending promise, every needless posture struck about issues from beef to the Prevention of Terrorism Act which his party is poweriess to influence in opposition, threatens the shattering of the vase. and with it the renewed hopes of British social democracy.

So prevalent is the belief among politicians of all parties that Labour will win the general election that scarcely any of them confronts the historic meltdown it will mean for Labour if he fails to do so. Prepared to contemplate that awful prospect, Blair is at least as sensitised to the dangers and limitations of preelection opposition as Mrs Thatcher

To take an example, welfare reform, and the switching of resources from social security to



DONALD MACINTYRE

education, is central to the thrust of today's document. But we are unlikely to know how fast Blair intends to achieve that. And even if he had the exact blueprint and published it now, he would be engulfed in conflicting advice from every interest group in the country.

For all the populist and arresting language in which Blair is reliably said to have written today's draft manifesto, it is deliberately limited

lan Macleod once said acidly of growth to that of earnings. Earlier the Tory manifesto that preceded Labour's 1966 landslide that it contained 131 commitments but no ideas. As a result, the electorate had no notion what the party's policy

By contrast, the firm pledges in odáy's document, from the limit on infant class sizes to the promise of a job or real training place to every 16- to 18-year-old, literally can be contained in the credit-card sized document of which the party has printed two million copies. Blair has been ruthless in weeding out not only the promises that would require tax increases to pay for them, but also all those not certain of being achieved in a first term.

As late as this very week, he withpolicy on state pensions by making explicit the goal of matching their

manifestos offered policies on what Blair once called "everything from stray cats to world disarmament". Today's document promises not the earth, but a start to Labour's aim of restoring social cohesion and economic efficiency. And although it will fail to answer some of the thorniest questions - such as child benefit for 16- to 18-year-olds and whether there will be a higher tax rate - there is no sign that the final manifesto will otherwise differ radically from today's document. For

forthcoming ballot of members cannot do other than endorse it This is already deeply disturbing stood a concerted effort to harden some of Blair's restive backbench critics. But it may suit the minimalist times. The message to the party

all the protestations about consul-

tation throughout the party, the

is that in a climate in which politicians aren't trusted any more, it is not just pointless but fatal to promise more than you can deliver, or - and this may be even less ambitious - what the voters think you can deliver.

The party will surely absorb this message. But what it will not be able to tell from today's document is whether Blair would be as radical from the social democratic centre left as Margaret Thatcher was from the right.

First, as he reminded Labour MPs yesterday, he has to get elected. But in office there are fewer alibis than in opposition. He believes that social cohesion, welfare state reform and the re-equipping of the economy through education are as big as Thatcher's state-shrinking, unioncurbing agenda. But if his momenturn falters in office, then the capacity for disillusionment among the tens of thousands of party members who at first hesitantly, then enthusiastically, participated in the rewriting of Clause IV is as limitless as their hopes are now.

What me? I'm off to lunch

The officer class at the Somme was cruel and stupid. And their modern equivalents can be as disgusting

Defence Secretary, had lunch at Lancaster House with the President of the French Assembly and spent the rest of the day holding meetings in his office. From there, 80 years ago, he would have been able to hear the artillery barrage that preceded the British assault on the German lines that began on 1 July 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme.

He chose not to commemorate that day at Thiepval with the veterans of the army of which he is political master. Before we condemn him, we should bear in mind that friends of John Redwood, his rival for the Tory leadership, are going out of their way to make us loathe Portillo. They may have fomented this fuss about his non-attendance. Nevertheless, disliking Portillo

remains an important obligation for us all – his manner is disgusting, and on this occasion, as on others, he has displayed an extraordinary lack of taste. For 1 July 1916 was both the most important day in our modern military history and among the most important in our entire history. To make matters worse for the Defence Secretary, this may be the last anniversary of that date for which we can call on living memory. Some Somme veterans are in their hundreds. They will not be with us in 10 years. The next anniversary will not really be an anniversary at all. The event.

will have passed fully into recorded

rather than remembered history. There is, now, some controversy about how we should judge that first day in terms of military history. For most of the 20th century - from Wilired Owen to Rowan Atkinson's Blackadder - it has been regarded as a monumental blunder perpetrated by a callous High Command who throughout the war cared nothing for the lives of their troops. It is routinely seen as the supreme condemnation of the British class system. Working-class conscripts, lured by the call of duty and the glamour of escape, were chucked into the firing line by cruel, stupid toffs.

Revisionists now say that, though it was undoubtedly a catastrophe, it was forced upon the generals by the political and military demands of the hour. Subsequently, they learnt their lesson and won the decisive second Battle of the Somme employing considerably more humane and modern methods.

vice"? "divorce reception"?)

carry the same air of melan-

cholic revelry as do the words

"leaving party". It is their pre-dictability: the embarrassing

speech ("I can honestly say

I've never worked with a more

talented group of people"), the

last-minute present from Thrift

Gift, the who's-next banter, the

baffling messages on the good-

bye card, the frankly doomed

attempt to impress the young

lady from Bought Ledger, the

Imagine then, my delight

when a departing colleague

decided to whoop it up on the

Continent. Forget the scabby

boozers of the Isle of Dogs, he

said, we'll have this party in -

ooh, Venice would be about

right, Cannes perhaps, or Ver-

sailles, or Prague, somewhere

grand and Napoleonic We'll

charter a jumbo, cram it with

Beluga and Roederer Cristal,

install an in-flight fashion

parade and Nautilus gym and ...

By the following week, his arrangements had become less

ambitious: okay, we head for

Boulogne, and take a dozen

taxis to L'Atlantique, the hotel-

restaurant-dancehall equivalent

last Tube home ...

n Monday 1 July, And we did, after all, win the war - a Michael Portillo, the victory we seem less disposed to celebrate than that of 1945.

Such a controversy has its place, not least in British self-perception. The idea that we have a criminally or comically incompetent ruling class has been a fixed and frequently debilitating aspect of our politics and our culture since the Great War. We still believe in the failings of leadership, more readily because of the slaughter at the Somme. Perhaps that belief is why I so readily dislike Portillo. But, if the generals were not really that incompetent, then our routine contempt for leaders is based upon a misreading of history, and our national habit of giving moral weight



BRYAN APPLEYARD

to the mannerisms of class is founded

But that issue becomes almost insignificant, a local matter, when set against the elemental spectacle of mechanised, futile slaughter provided by that first day of battle. It is said that more died on that first day of the Somme than had died in the whole previous century of conflicts in Europe. A hundred years of relative peace had led to this. Human progress would always, thereafter, seem a thin, vain, unconvincing faith. For this was a moment that seemed to come from beyond history, a timeless statement of the perpetual possibility of absolute failure.

In many ways, as the historian and critic Paul Fussel has pointed out, it was an image that created the modern sensibility. The blood and mud of the trenches when set against the mannered civilisation of Edwardian England gave birth to a peculiarly modern form of irony based upon the awareness of the contingent, organic mess that lies beneath the enforced order of society. Order itself became a kind of joke, a desperate, doomed attempt

to avoid the abyss. And it gave birth to the modern sense of the human reality of the

gasps of nouvelle cuisine are still

liant secret. I remember lots of

urgent seduction breaking out

amid the smashed glass of a

backstreet disco. ("So, you are all on holiday, yes?" a local

youth asked one of the girls.
"No no," she replied, "Canary
Wharf leaving party." "In
Answerp?" he asked, wide-

eyed.) I watched as a distin-

All quiet on the Portillo front: Somme veterans visited Picardy prove, the patrician officers suddenly saw in those massacred brigades of chums and pals not undifferentiated cannon fodder but men like them-

tall formed not the sensitive, culti-vated, suffering poet, but Everyman. This was a realisation whose importance can hardly be overstated. Leaving aside salvation and the immortal soul, the essential secular message of Christianity is: ordinary people have feelings too. It is a radical statement of the irreducibility and commonality of human experience. It took a while to sink in - about 1,880 years, in fact, the length of time between the Ser-

selves. Wilfred Owen's clay that grew

But when it did, the shock brought one civilisation to an end and ushered in a modern world in which there can be no ultimate legitimacy but that of mass approval, in which some form of equality, however attenuated, is part

of everybody's political predisposition. This, along with the technology that made mass killing possible. changed the complexion of war itself - though oddly, for the worse. Once the masses acquired a voice to which their leaders had to listen, they also became a legitimate target. The bombing of civilian populations in the Second World War signalled the realisation that armies alone were not the masses. As the best poems of the time mon on the Mount and 1 July 1916. point, people were - both because of

what they did and what they felt, So 1914-18 had not been the war to end wars, but rather the war that broadened the definition of conflict to

include us all. All of which is to say that Portillo should have been there on Monday. This commemoration, for all its vast significance, was still a military event: he was the one politician who had to attend. But, in truth, we should all have been there. Those ancient veterans witnessed a terrible battle, one of the worst in history, but they were also there at the awful birth pangs of the contemporary world. Soon they will be gone and we shall begin, as we always

Maltings' slatted wooden roof, a couple of tons of govern-

mental chopper thrummed and

bated and ground its gears and went WHUP-WHUP-WHUP

like a mad thing before sweep-ing the lovely Virginia B. away

into the night. "It was very off-

putting for the performers,"

said my man in the woodwinds section. "Completely destroyed

the whole mood of the con-

cert." If only they'd been play-

ing Wagner - the audience

could have dreamt they were

remaking Apocalypse Now.

without the Defence Secretary (centre). Left to right: General Haig, Wilfred Owen and TV's Blackadder This PEP that PEP

their PEP

his PEP

her PEP

which PEP?

what PEP?



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ew combinations of play canasta, have a gallon of words in the English language ("memorial serweek, things had scaled down again. We were now off to Belgium for dinner and dancing ... So we flew over in what appeared to be a Second World War Mosquito (free in-flight salami bun), drove about in a coach and dined at a charming restaurant where the dying

> celebrated (single moule en crome served in egg cup). After 2.0am, it all got a little bhurred. The DJ, realising he had some Brits on the I remember roaming Antwerp's bland shopping mall, asking bits of Euroflotsam outside dancefloor, reached for the Sex Pistols ... Marks and Benetton where the action was to be found. The most friendly-disposed of our

crew indulged in yelling conhad some Brits on the floor, tests about Jurgen Klinsmann. reached for the Sex Pistols ... I recall feeling puzzled to find an enormous and beautiful white cathedral rearing up amid the franchise shops like a bril-

It was, admittedly, some way from the ball at the Doge's Palace we had first planned. And next week, I expect, leavthings you have at the Café Rouge with glasses of Merlot. But something remains incon-trovertible. Say that health and wealth have missed me. Say that youth and energy have fled. Say I will never again do up a pair of 32in-waist Wranglers. But can I just put on guished editorial colleague, a record that, at 42, I was warned restaurant-dancehau equivalent of its trendy Piccadilly namesake. There we'll drink Piper sake there we'll drink Piper Hiedsieck from the shoes of rueusieck from Montmartre, sweat from it at 42m. I remem- at 6 o'clock in the morning?

outbreak of literal-mindedness in Scotland. The Cape povelist John King has been impressing reviewers (not ours, alas) with his tough tale of tottie and terraces, entitled The Football selling well, it's also become one of the year's most shoplifted items. No less than nine copies were nicked last month from the John Smith bookshop in Glasgow. This presumably wouldn't have anything to do with the fact that the World's Finest Living Writer, Irvine Welsh, can be found puffing the book on the cover, and advising punters,

"Buy, steal or borrow a copy now." Should the felous

Maltings, Suffolk. She's so keen to anend, festival-goers murmured admiringly, she had flown there straight from the England-Spain match earlier that afternoon; look, there's the ministerial helicopter parked on the Maltings' lawn. And indeed it was an impressive sight, complete with pilot and co-pilot and at least one Heritage minder who went through the crowd asking people how long the evening's concert was likely to go on for.

responsible ever come to Lon-

don, I hope they will be more

sophisticated about the "Kill to get a ticket" signs in Shaftes-

I met a classical musician the

The concert was the City of London Sinfonia's performance of Mahler's Fourth Symphony, with its famously long, slow and generally adagio third movement. Three or four minutes into it, the enraptured audience became aware that their Heritage minister was discreetly leaving them, as the place reverberated with the sound of her helicopter taking off. Barely 100 yards above the

A new ice-cream is launched today by Ben & Jerry, the American frozen-pudding moguls. What's special about it is that it's supposed to be the quintes-

sence of Britishness. In reply to a B&J questionnaire, seven thousand-odd fans sent in their suggestions for the flavour that "Britain" would be if she were an ice-cream. The winner was "Cool Britannia" (vanilla with strawberries and chocolate-covered shortbread), the bright idea of a Yank lawyer called Sarah Moynihan-Williams. Not had, if we must have ravens-atthe-Tower national stereotypes. but I preferred some of the losing suggestions: the Charles and Diana Split, for instance, or the Vanilla Parker Bowles, the Agatha Crispie or (what the bell) the Jack the Ripple, James

other day, who gave me a fascinating performer's-eye view of the Secretary of State for National Heritage. He had encountered Mrs Bottomley on Saturday before last, at the Aldeburgh Festival in Snape ber how the DJ, realising he News reaches me of a shocking

Bombe, Cashew Grant ...

ing parties will once again be Factory. But while the book is

THE INDEPENDENT • Thursday 4 July 1996

BUSINESS NEWS DESK: tel 0171-293 2636 fax 0171-293 2098

Record profits as Weinstock steps down in style

TOM STEVENSON City Editor

Lord Weinstock will step down as managing director of GEC on 9 September, marking the end of his 33-year reign at Britain's biggest manufacturing and defence company. The transfer of power to former Lucas chief executive George Simpson was confirmed yesterday along with better-than-expected results for the year to March.

Analysts agreed that he had gone out in style, with profits excceding filbn, before exceptional charges, for the first time. He leaves GEC with a £14bn order book, up 10 per cent on a year ago, and with a £2.5bn cash pile. After years of bearing Lord Weinstock's relbearing Lord Weinstock's rel-ative parsimony, shareholders were rewarded with an unex-pected 10 per cent rise in the full year dividend to 12.51p.

"This is racy stuff for GEC," Tressan MacCarthy, an analyst at Panmure Gordon, said of the dividend "To the part GEC has

dividend. "In the past GEC has been incredibly prudent and maybe it's going to be a bit more generous in future."

Brian Newman, analyst at Henderson Crosthwaite, said the stock had been depressed ahead of the results by market rumours of disappointing

figures and significant restructuring charges.
"These figures will dispel any

negative rumours and restore some confidence in the stock," Mr Newman said. "Weinstock is going out on a high note."

Lord Prior, GEC chairman. paid tribute to Lord Weinstock as he confirmed that a new position of chairman emeritus would be created "so that the company will have available the benefit of his long experience and deep knowledge". Lord Weinstock will not sit on GEC's board, but he will have an office at the company's Stan-

hope Gate headquarters and is expected to use it every day.

The closing of the Weinstock era at GEC puts an end to years of uncertainty during which the succession to what has been called the most important job in British industry has been agonised over by Lord Weinstock and shrouded in secrecy.

Over the past decade, many favourites have come and gone, with the roll-call of those who came close to receiving the nod reading like a Who's Who of British Industry. Sir Colin Southgate chose to remain with Thorn EMI, Michael Green of Carlton was considered briefly as was Alan Sugar, the consumer electronics entrepreneur who

came close to characterising everything that GEC was not.

GEC's pre-tax profits for the year to March of £981m were well up on the £891m recorded in 1995, but detractors said yesterday they did not represent a great step forward from the £710m achieved as long ago as 1986. The company's many critics accuse GEC of undue caution. which has led it to miss a string of opportunities in industries for which it had the technical skills but lacked the willingness to take the necessary chances.

The growth in profits last year reflected an improved performance from GEC Marconi, the defence electronics arm, where cost-overruns on large contracts had held back the first-half result. The company said solutions had been found for the technical problems and it did not expect results in future years to be affected. Boosted by the acquisition last year of warship and submarine maker VSEL, profits jumped from £205m to £291m.

GEC Alsthom, the Anglo-French power joint venture, and GPT, the telecommunications operation, which is jointly owned with Siemens of Germany, both reported record sales and profits. When George Simpson takes

over, he is expected to face a telephone contact with his mandaunting task to follow in the agers, more than 200 of whom

Arnold Weinstock joins Sir Michael Sobell's electronics firm Radio & Allied Industries, Marries the boss's Company reverses into General Electric Compan Buys Perranti's defence business Bays VSEL Trident submarine yard. GEC announces George Simpson as new managing director. Lord Weinstock becomes chairman emeritus FTSE Ali share index 1955 1968 1970 1972 1974 1975 1978 1980 1982 1964 1966 1988 1990 1992 1994 96 The Weinstock years have been good to GEC shareholders, although the early cutperformance. especially in recessions, has been squandered in the past fifteen years.

THE WEINSTOCK YEARS

footsteps of one of British business's most idiosyncratic and forceful managers. When not pursuing his twin passions for Mozart and horse-racing, Lord Weinstock gained a reputation for spending long hours in his of-fice, maintaining almost constant

Arguably, only Hanson and BTR shared his passion for financial controls when he introduced monthly reporting in the 1960s and 1970s, long before such monitoring became a cen-

tral management technique. Mr Simpson, fresh from the

were to on his speed-dial system. disposal of Rover to BMW while at British Aerospace and a turnaround in Lucas's fortunes, will mark a dramatic

change of culture at GEC. Attention is most closely focused, however, on whether his close links with BAe's Dick Analysis believe the arrival of Evans will lead to the long-fr Simpson, fresh from the rumoured merger of GEC's

defence interests with BAe. His biggest challenge, however, is viewed as reversing

GEC's long-term underper-formance of the market Although, as the chart shows, GEC has beaten the market during the last 33 years, over the past 15 it has lost half its relative value.

Comment, page 23

EU joins fray on airline alliances

PATRICK TOOHER

The European Commission vesterday launched an investigation into six main transat-lantic airline alliances as it sought an equal role with Washington in policing competition along blue riband routes.

The inquiry will include British Anways' planned link with American Artines, which will form the world's most powerful airline alliance - the cata-

byst for yesterday's move.
British Airways' proposed tieup is already being investigated
by the Office of Fair Trading in Britain, the United States Justice Department and an influential

all-party committee of MPs. The EU will look mio cooperation deals between Germany's Lufthansa and United Airlines of the US; Scandinavian Airlines (SAS) and United; British Airways and USAir, Swis-sair and Belgium's Sabena; Austrian Airlines and Delta; and between KLM of the Netherlands and Northwest.

."It is important to ensure that such alliances do not damage competition or erode consumers' interests," European Transport Commissioner Neil Kinnock told a joint news conference with his competition counterpart, Karel van Miert...

An accompanying paper said the Commission's preliminary view was that such deals would "substantially restrict competition on the routes between the United States and Europe as well as on some intra-Community (EU)

routes". Mr van Miert justified the in-quiry, which will last several months, on the grounds of the transatlantic imbalance in authority which he said allowed US anti-trust authorities a free rein to set conditions on deals.

"For some time now we have been confronted with all sorts of alliances between American and European airlines," he said.

been able to examine the part of those alliances which affect flights within Europe. On the American side, they are entitled to look at the transatiantic di-mension outside of the US," Mr van Miert added.

In the past airline alliances have been inspected by the national competition authorities of the EU country involved, leaving the deal's overall impact on European aviation markets unexamined.

However, the Commission may face a fight over the legal grounds it has used to extend its jurisdiction.

New TV channel to make joint bids

ATHEW HORSMAN Media Editor

Channel 5 Broadcasting, owners of the planned fifth terrestrial television channel, has approached Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB with a plan to buy US programming jointly and to secure terrestrial rights to some

shows now on Sky Television. The talks, which are still at an early stage, could see the two broadcasters bid jointly for US shows before the launch of Channel 5 in January 1997.

Channel 5 also wants to bid for the rights to popular action programmes, such as Highlander, to which BSkyB has both terrestrial and satellite rights. Some of Sky's terrestrial rights were bought in advance of the auction for Channel 5, for which BSkyB was a leading contender.

The new channel, owned by Pearson, United News & Media and CLT the Luxembourg-based broadcaster, is currently commissioning and acquiring programmes for its first year of operation. With a budget of £110m, next to £600m at ITV, the new channel will concentrate on daytime television, where it is expected to rely on traditional daytime fare, along with US

and other imported series. Sky, which broadcasts popular US shows such as Melrose Place and The Simpsons, has developed into a "proving ground" for US TV series, according to David Elstein, Sky's head of pro-

grammes.
"The ITV companies and the BBC have both understood that if programmes are successful in 25 per cent of UK homes, then they should be popular in the other 75 per cent" - those without cable or satellite.

Two popular programmes pi-oneered in the UK by Sky, The Simpsons and The X-Files, are now being broadcast on the BBC. Mr Elstein said the advantages work hoth ways.

Defensive Woolwich set to mount dual takeover

Woolwich Building Society is preparing to mount dual takeover bids on a building part of a rapid expansion strat-egy ahead of its planned £3bn stock market flotation. Among the institutions it has held talks with are Birmingham Midshires and NPL, the mutual insurer:

Woolwich hopes to make at least one announcement concerning a UK society or an insurer ahead of its demutualisation next year. A separate acquisition in Eu-

rope is also likely in the next few months. However, any takeover would not be completed until after Woolwich's flotation.

Its moves were yesterday seen by some City analysts as helping to stave off the advances of rival predators, including Prudential, which are believed

ecutive, John Stewart, that Woolwich must expand in the UK and in Europe to become an all-round financial services nlaver. Mr Stewart vesterday declined to comment on details of the society's talks.

"What we are trying to do at Woolwich is wrap financial services round the customer and his needs, be that in the field of life and pensions, general insurance, protection, savings,

loans, or plastic cards. "When you move in that direction, you will realise there are gaps. You don't need to be a rocket scientist to work out areas in which we need to grow."

Mr Stewart stressed Woolwich was determined not to to be considering their own mount hostile bids for another takeover bids for Woolwich. society or a life company. The But it also reflects the view, aim of talking to an insurer ities of Woolwich Life, the society's subsidiary, potentially linking up with a specialist pen-

> It is understood that talks on building society mergers have not been exclusive to Birmingham Midshires.

sions provider.

Similarly, while Woolwich believes NPI would be a good "fit", the insurer might not wish to have more detailed discussions. Talks with other mutuals are thought to be at a more advanced stage.

A Midshires spokesman said: "Rumours will be rumours. But do not hold your breath for an



of the Woolwich

will not be one this week or the

next' The stumbling block is thought to be a refusal by Mr Jackson to consider a subservient position in a merged organisation after five years at

the helm of Midshires. Laurie Edmans, marketing director at NPL, said: "It is flattering that Woolwich think

so well of us. We have had conversations. but I would not dignify their sta-

Figures underline strong US economy DIANE COYLE were up 0.4 per cent during the month. In another encouraging Economics Editor

There was fresh evidence yesterday of the strength of the US economy as the Federal Reserve's open market committee despite the evidence, the Fed did not raise interest rates.

Factory orders rose for the third month running in May, the number of new new jobless claims declined unexpectedly last week, and consumer confidence has reached a six-year high according to a poll for ABC News. Orders rose by 1.9 per cent in

May while the initial estimate of a small decline in April was revised to a 0.2 per cent increase. The jump in May was partly explained by aircraft orders, but there were increases in other categories too, notably industrial hardware and cars. Excluding aircraft and transportation, orders

sign of stronger demand, levels of stocks decreased slightly in May, while unfilled orders increased by 0.4 per cent. Jobless claims fell by 4,000 to

351,000 in the last week of June, the third weekly decline in a row. The less erratic four-week average of new claims fell to 355,750 from 356,500. This suggests figures for em-ployment in June, due on Friday,

could be stronger than antici-pated. A surprise surge in the number of jobs in May hit shares on Wall Street due to fears strong growth would force the Fed to raise interest rates. US employment has risen by an average of 222,400 a month

so far this year, a pace many analysts think will have the Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan worried about future wage inflation.

Comment, page 23

Germany: Escom crisis deepens as losses mount

Jobless totals likely to remain high in the short term

Computer giant seeks creditor protection

and NIGEL COPE

Escom, Germany's secondargest computer retailer which bought the former Rumbelows chain in the UK last year, filed for protection from creditors yesterday after mounting losses. Escom shares on the Düsseldorf stock exchange were suspended following the company's an-nouncement that it would begin 'intensive talks" with suppliers, creditors and shareholders about "stabilising" finances.

Source: FT Information

The filing follows Monday's announcement that Escom was closing 65 of its 233 UK stores with the loss of 227 jobs. Yes-terday the company said the UK business would not be affected by the problems of the German

STOCK MARKETS

parent. "Escom confirms that it will continue to trade in the UK and that it has the full support of its banks," it said.

Escom UK was established as a separate business from the German parent in May. The company says its management accounts show that the UK business made a profit of £1m last year. "The UK PC market is booming, it is the German market that is in recession," a spokesman said.

In March, the Escom group reported a net loss of DM125m (£52.5m) for last year, but latest figures put the shortfall as high as DM180m, and yesterday it forecast another substantial deficit for the current year. The company presented a restructuring programme earlier this year but had been unable to

East Midlands Elec 565

and suppliers to protect liquidity.
Of the DM100 sought in capital injections, only DM60m has flowed into the accounts so far.

News of Escom's difficulties ollows an announcement by Digital on Tuesday that it is to cut 7,000 jobs after problems in its computer business in Europe. Digital is the world's secondlargest computer company after IBM. The problems affecting all computer companies are falling PC prices which have forced many manufacturers to give rebates to dealers on unsold stock.

For 10 years Escom had been one of the success stories of German industry. Turnover rose 90 per cent annually, turning the computer shop into a global manufacturer and retailer of cut-price home PCs.

Recovery fails to lift employment gloom

Workers made redundant in Germany by Escom could have trouble finding new jobs. Unemployment stands at 10.3 per cent of the workforce, a shade below post-war records. The economic recovery expected in the second half of this year is not expected to make big inroads into the jobless total,

writes Diane Coyle. Chancellor Helmut Kohl admitted as much yesterday, Speaking at the Federal Labour Office, he said: "We know from past experience that an economic revivial has a positive impact on the labour market only after some delay. The business cycle will not contribute to more employment this year."

There was further evidence that the economy is starting to recover. Industrial output increased by 1.1 per cent in May,

the Bundesbank reported yes-terday. It was still 2.1 per cent lower than a year earlier, but the third monthly rise in succession was far bigger than economists had predicted.

The May increase was driven by manufacturing output rather than construction. Of particular interest was a 2.4 per cent increase in the production of intermediate goods, which typi-cally expands strongly in the eatly stages of a recovery.
"The German economy

bottomed at the end of the year and is now on the road to recovery," said Richard Reid, chief economist at investment bank UBS in Frankfurt. But he warned that growth would be subdued until confidence recovered too - something high unemployment is likely to

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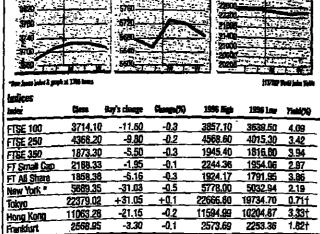
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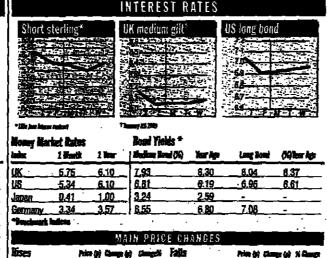
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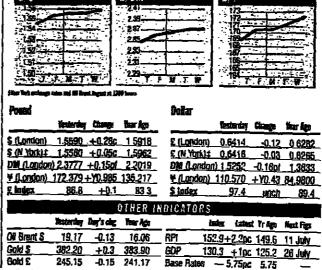
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THE INDEPENDENT section two









CURRENCIES



'As far as business is concerned, Mr Blair is making all the right noises. but despite his best endeavours he still has a credibility

gap to close.

A landslide for Labour would spell trouble

It is easy to see why Tony Blair's New greater competitiveness. The big question, labour went down rather better in Birmakan as Mr Blair acknowledged, is whether ingham yesterday than Ian Lang's jaded brand of old Conservatism. Although the Labour leader's speech broke little new ground it was delivered with self-confidence, conviction and enough self-deprecation to hint at sincerity and mortality at the same time. In contrast Mr Lang's per-oration on regional policy a day earlier was dull stuff indeed, a speech that said nothing, went nowhere and was evidently delivered with as little relish as it was received.

There may be more interesting places to be than the British Chambers of Commerce national conference on a wet midweek day but the two performances must have left the delegates wondering which party was really more interested in capturing the business vote. The Chambers of Commerce see things differently to the big battalions of industry, where suspicions about Labour's true colours continue to run deep. Reaction at the conference yesterday to Mr Blair's vision of Labour and business could scarcely have been better. On a show of hands, delegates who thought Mr Blair would be prime minister after the next election outnumbered those who believed it would continue to be John Major by 20 to one.

On fiscal responsibility, on education and on Europe the Labour leader did not put a to 364p, the shares anticipate quite a show, the shares anticipate quite a show that the shares are the shares anticipate quite a show that the shares are the shares anticipate quite a show that the shares are the shares anticipate quite a show that the shares are the shares anticipate quite a show that the shares are the shares anticipate quite a show that the shares are the shares are the shares and the shares are the shares a

Labour in power can and will pursue the same policy outlined in opposition yesterday.

The answer may turn on the size of his majority. A small working majority would probably enable New Labour to deliver. Too hig a landslide and old Labour could be haying for blood. Anything much above 50 would certainly spell trouble. In that case yesterday's endorsements in Birmingham could begin to look ill placed. If even the present Conservalive government is getting itself into trouble on the public finances, as next Tuesday's summer economic forecasts from the Treasury will confirm, how on earth is Mr Blair going to hold the lid on demands for ever greater government spending? As far as business is concerned, Mr Blair is making all the right noises, but despite his best endeav-ours he still has a credibility gap to close.

GEC is a heavy weight on Simpson's shoulders

It is just as well George Simpson is not given Lto worrying about other people's high expectations of him. Confirmation that he will succeed Lord Weinstock in September helped make GEC the Footsie's most heavily traded stock yesterday. Up 12p on the day

emulated in the past 15 years. Although GEC has outstripped the market handsomely over the full stretch of Lord Weinstock's tenure, it has done its utmost to squander the advantage throughout the 1980s and 1990s.

GEC did rather better for many years than many of the other national champions created with the blessing of Harold Wilson in the late 1960s, but ultimately it has failed when set against the likes of Siemens of Germany. The two companies were about the same size when GEC swallowed Associated Electrical and English Electric; today the British company is dwarfed by the German and it has tumbled down the league tables

of the world's industrial giants. Now is not the time to dwell on Lord Weinstock's stewardship, but if George Simpson is to effect lessing change at GEC he will have to learn lessons from a man who has been accused, with a degree of justification, of doing more damage to British industry, through errors of omission, than

any other businessman. That might seem a harsh assessment on the day GEC's profits broke through the £1bn mark for the first time. With orders standing at £14bn and £2.5bn in the bank, many people would judge this a highly suc-cessful company. But it is hard to avoid the

Snatching Rover from under the nose of the Japanese and selling it on to BMW showed that Mr Simpson has some talent for selling businesses and in the short term there are plenty of peripheral operations that look ripe for that treatment. In the long run, however, GEC needs to re-learn how to build businesses by investing in them.

Having ceded effective control of its elecommunications and power arms into joint ventures with the Germans and French, GEC's future lies in Marconi and, possibly, other areas of the still fast-growing electronics industry. That will require long-term vision and a willingness to take short-term risks With such a fat cheque book, Mr Simp-

son has an opportunity that comes to very few businessmen - a real chance of re-invigorating a moribund industry where Britain still has the will and expertise to succeed. Mr Simpson may make light of the task that faces him, and the hope that many are investing in him, but it is in truth a heavy weight of responsibility that is being placed on his shoulders. Let's hope he's up to it.

BA link-up may never get off the ground

reverse a relative decline that only stranded | have left GEC's profits higher and British | regulatory mire. BA was yesterday dis-dinosuurs such as ICI and Hanson have industry rather healthier. ment from Brussels that it too will be looking into the planned get-together, but the European interest may well prove rather more serious than that.

The way BA figures it, Brussels will be hard pressed to ban its code sharing with American because similar alliances at Lufthansa and KLM have already been sanctioned by their respective national authorities. If Brus-sels wanted to ban the lot, so be it. They'd all be in the same boat and BA probably wouldn't be too unhappy. But surely not even Brussels would consider blocking BA's plans while allowing the others to continue.

Well actually it might. BA's link-up with American is in a different league to the ones that have gone before and involves a much larger concentration of market power. It would be easy for the Commission to turn round and say: "OK, the others just about get through, but this one doesn't." In the meantime the deal faces the prospect of an MMC investigation in the UK as well. On the other side of the Atlantic, rival American airlines insist that the open skies policy promised as a quid pro quo for allowing the link-up is pointless without stripping BA of a very substantial proportion of its London airport landing right slots. As far as BA is concerned, this is not up for negotiation.

This one looks set to run and run. Indeed there is a real prospect of it running for so long that it will never happen at all.

Capel ends Warburg's five-year reign

PATRICK TOOHER

SBC Warburg's five-year tenure as the City's top-rated research house ended yesterday when Nat West Securities clinched the 23rd Extel survey of in-

vestment analysts.
James Capel, the broker that
dominated the table throughout the 1980s and which is now owned by HSBC, rose from tourth position to just pip SBC Warburg for second spot.

"The result particularly re-flects NatWest's foremost position in the UK sectors," said Geoffrey Osmint, consulting editor of the survey which is weighted by the size of funds managed by those institutional investors who voted.

NatWest also walked away with the award for the best sector coverage. This was won for the third year running by its oil team led by Fergus MacLeod who narrowly beat off a strong challenge from the textile and apparel team at BZW, led by Julia Biake.

the best individual analyst's award on his behalf from Alis-

The 23rd Extel survey

95 (2) NatWest Securities (4) HSBC James Capel (1) SBC Warburg (7) UBS Ltd

> Menill Lynch (ella Smith New Court (5) Kleinwort Benson

(B) ABN AMRO House Sovett ___ (10) Morgan Stanley International

international

title ahead of HSBC James Capel's engineering specialist Charles Burrows, was notable by his absence at yesterday's London Guildhall lunch, which has become the "Brit Awards" for brokers.

Instead it fell to Mr Macpparel team at BZW, led by Leod's colleagues, Suzy Mayne ulia Blake.

Mr MacLeod, who also won uity research, to accept the

all-sectors league table

tair Darling, Labour's City spokesman. "Fergus is off trekking in Pakistan for a few weeks," Ms Mayne said after-wards "He has just finished a 300-page oil document so he needs some well-deserved rest." The survey's findings are another blow for SBC Warburg, (3) BZW-

formed last year after Swiss Bank Corporation paid £800m for SG Warburg's investment banking activities. Since the merger the investment bank has been hit by high-level defections from its corporate finance side which observers say has affected its

> UBS leap-frogged three places to take fourth position, ahead of BZW which fell two notches to number five. UBS was helped by more votes for its European research, which is rated second only to SBC Warburg. Merrill Lynch, which includes broker Smith New Court, and Kleinwort Benson, owned by Germany's Dresdner Bank, stayed at number six and seven respectively in the peck-

securities business



Voted the best: David Atkinson and Suzy Mayne, members of NatWest's top-rated analysts' team, receiving awards yesterday

ing order of stockbroking firms. The awards are often criticised as being an excuse for highlyrated analysts to rack up the telephone number salaries they already command. Last year, for example, NatWest's pharma-ceuticals analysts Steve Plag caused a stir among colleagues

only report the fund manager's when he was poached by rivals opinions of the quality of ana-BZW for significantly more money after being voted best in-dividual analyst. Mr Plag was on gardening leave when this year's poll was being conducted. But yesterday Extel denied

From

lysts' work," Mr Osmint said.
"Only those who employ them can gauge their revenue po-tential. Experience would show there is not necessarily a direct correlation between earnings power and an analyst's ranking." the survey determined the level of analysts' remuneration, "We

IN BRIEF

• The European Commission admitted that it could not tell whether Credit Lyonnais, the state-owned bank undergoing restructuring following an injection of French government aid, was meeting the conditions set for it by the EU. Karel Van Miert, European competition commissioner, said regular progress reports agreed with French authorities before aid was waved through were lacking "some elements". Mr Van Miert declined to give any timeframe for the French authorities or to specify whether he will reopen the Commission's inquiry into Credit Lyonnais.

 Visa International, the credit card company, has backed away from plans to stop member banks from issuing rivals' credit cards after talks with the European Commission. US-based companies American Express and Dean Witter Discover & Co had complained in January that any ban would be anti-competitive.

· Orient-Express Hotels, a subsidiary of Sea Containers, has acquired the luxury Reid's Hotel, in Madeira, from the Blandy Group for an undisclosed sum. Blandy said yesterday that Reid's future was best served by being part of a larger hotel group. The pro-ceeds of the sale will be used to consolidate various Blandy shareholdings and to finance investments in new areas in Madeira.

 Like-for-like sales at Sainsbury's supermarkets grew by 3.3 per cent excluding petrol sales in the last two months. The increase is far lower than recent figures from rivals such as Asda and Tesco. Petrol sales are "significantly" below last year's level due to the petrol price war. Sales at Homebase are up 8 per cent and those at Texas Homecare are up by 1 per cent. All the Texas stores will be re-branded as branches of Homebase by October.

 Shell Oil has reached agreement with several partners, including BP Exploration, Conoco and Exxon, to develop a \$1.45bn (£1bn) deep-water oil and gas platform in the Gulf of Mexico. The project, called Ursa, will reach production rates of 150,00 barrels of oil and 400 million cubic feet of gas a day.

Blair wins business vote of confidence

imecessary bureaucratic knots.

Labour would also be in the

forefront of promoting free

But above all Mr Blair sought

to persuade his audience that

Labour's economic policies

would not alter once in power

and that the idea of the hard left

Road show: Tony Blair

just waiting until it got into-

office to reverse its policies

mean and we mean what we say.

The traditional divisions be-

tween left and right over busi-

He said it was fundamentally

unhealthy that business had a

history of siding with one po-

litical party against another. But there had been a transfor-

ness are a thing of the past."

The old ideologies are dead.

He said: "We say what we

sets out to lay a ghost

was "ridiculous".

MICHAEL HARRISON Birmingham

Tony Blair yesterday took a big step towards reassuring the trade and opposing protec-tionism while it would give business community that Labour could be trusted in Britain a leading role in deter-mining Europe's future. power and that its economic and industrial policies would not be hijacked by the hard left.

Business leaders attending the annual conference of the British Chambers of Commerce in Birmingham gave an over-whelming vote of confidence to the Labour leader as he spelt out the party's plans on taxation, the economy, labour relations and education, trade and Europe.

Delegates said that Mr Blair had received a warmer welcome than the President of the Board of Trade, Ian Lang, who spoke on Tuesday, and had gone a long way to laying the ghost of Labour's interventionist past. In a foretaste of Labour's Road to Manifesto document being unveiled today, Mr Blair pledged that its economic policy once in power would be

based on "save and invest, not tax and spend". He repeated his pledge to work for sustainable non-inflationary growth, saying Labour would set and stick to an explicit low target for inflation and would not indulge in a dash for

short-term growth. He also pledged that although Labour supported the Social Chapter and a minimum wage, any new measures would only be introduced after consultation with business and if they enhanced Britain's com-

On regulation he promised a

China plans HQ in London "lean but effective" regime and trust of Labour in the busi-

which did not tie business up in ness community, unmecessary bureaucratic knots. Robin Geldard, the pastpresident of the British Chambers of Commerce, said afterwards that Mr Blair had done much to allay the fears of the business community although his successor, David Richardson, cautioned that the Labour leader's ability to hold

> size of his majority.
>
> Bob Moore of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, said that Mr Blair had received a warmer response than Mr Lang and had captured the mood of optimism. "What we saw today was a pragmatic and professional approach. There is an increasing sense that business would be comfortable working

the line might depend on the

with either party," he said.
John Townsend, chairman of
the Association of East Midlands Chambers of Commerce and Industry, said: "Blair is convincing quite a body of the business community that Labour is a party with which we can work. There is nowhere near the apprehension that there was only five years ago." Other delegates went further, saying that the Labour leader had moved directly into territory occupied by the Conservatives and that fears about the Social

Chapter were vastly overstated. Roger Charmley, chief executive of the Lincolnshire Chambers of Commerce said that businessmen there already had experience of a Labour-controlled City Council in Lincoln and it had worked well. "If there

The Bank of China has decided to locate its new merchant bank headquarters in London, adding to the long list of in-ternational institutions which

Bank of

have opted recently to put their key decision makers in the City, writes Peter Rodgers. Investment bankers believe the decision has already been made in Peking but not confirmed in public because of the tension between China and

Britain over the future of

democracy in Hong Kong. Haruko Fukuda, deputy chairman of the Japanese securities firm Nikko Europe, said she had been told of the decision to opt for a London headquarters by senior officials of the Bank of China.

She said: "The Chinese have recently decided to locate their merchant banking headquarters in London rather than in Hong Kong, or indeed New York. They told me that this is because London is the world's financial centre."

The emergence of London as the central location for Bank of China's new investment banking business is a surprise because the £100bn group has a powerful presence already in Hong Kong, where it owns Bank of China Group Securities, a rapidly growing investment bank.

A spokesman for Bank of China described Ms Fukuda's statement as "premature," because the headquarters of the new merchant bank planned by is to be a Labour administration | the group was "not necessarily mation in the understanding we would seek to work with it." | going to be in London."



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NIGEL COPE

Britain's largest developer of factory shopping centres is to open a further four "villages" in the UK by the end of the decade. The new centres will cost £250m to build and add almost 1 million square feet of retail space, largely out of town.

The developments will fuel

concerns that UK high streets

of stricter planning guidelines. near junction 28 on the M1 between Derby and Sheffield in

The new centres will open late 1997, in Ashford, Kent, in 1998 and later in York and Brigend, Wales. Only the Ashford site is in the town centre.

The sites will be developed by

BAA McArthur Glen, the joint

More 'villages' threaten the high street will continue to suffer in spite in Oaks centre in the Wirral last Bicester Village, Oxfordshire. Swindon next year.

Modelled on the factory shopping concept in the US, the centres let space to high-profile brand retailers such as Timberland and Ralph Lauren who use the shops to sell excess or mine local high streets. "Some unwanted stock at lower prices. retailers who open in our cen-Other sites are the Clark's Vilventure that opened the Chesh- lage in Street, Somerset, and

The state of the s The state of the s

year. Another is due to open in Joey Kaempfer, BAA Mc-Arthur Glen's chief executive, said: "There is room for around 15 large centres in the UK with the current planning restrictions." He denied that the new developments would undertres, say their local town centre branches benefit as a result."

business

Cray offers a lesson in wonder shares

The history of Cray Electronics should be a salutary lesson for investors swept off their feet by stock market wonder shares. The computer networks and software company was a darling of the City when and reducing the portfolio is only such things were fashionable, but everything has gone horribly wrong since last year's profits warning. After peaking at 198p in February 1994 the shares are back almost exactly where they were when former chairman Roger Holland and his team

bought in in 1989. With luck, yesterday's results for Roger Dye, the only recently appointed finance director, is not a good omen. An £835,000 profit in 1995 has been replaced by a mas-sive £19.4m deficit at the pre-tax

of weeding out loss-making products sensible for a tiddler like Cray.

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

the business on Watford has led to year, putting the shares on a heady a further £2.6m property charge.
That comes on top of a £4.2m pro-

vision taken elsewhere to try to cap the running sore of paying uneco-nomic rents for properties now empty after the decision to reverse the year to April should mark the nadir of the group's problems, although the imminent departure of the decision to reverse the previous expansion programme. Even so, Cray faces a annual drain of at least £2m for rents which will

That the dismal tidings were hardly unexpected is reflected in the modest 3.5p dip in the shares to 41p yesterday. Most of the pain last year was borne by the Communications business, which makes equipment for and installs computer networks. An asserting to the AIM-quoted Lorien. The distract the sign. An attempt to distract the sign. An attempt to distract the fall in occupancy to 91 per cent from some ropey figures at the communications business now boasts and strengthened its thority funding for the elderly.

This, they said, was normally a bad thority funding for the elderly.

This, they said, was normally a bad in the sign. An attempt to distract the fall in occupancy to 91 per cent from some ropey figures at the office the document. In fact, the figures have a potential best-seller in its of saturation in the market, the big-off on stock as a result of and installs computer networks. An and investors felt that Sherwood had and investors felt that Sherwood had and investors felt that Sherwood had strengthened its thority funding for the elderly.

The downturn will m year profits will show is finances and signs of saturation in the market, the big-off on stock of the document. In fact, the form the continuing squeeze on the fall in occupancy to 91 per cent from some ropey figures at the reader from some ropey figures at the sign. An attempt to distract the sign. The downturn will mean the fall in occupancy to 91 per cent from some form the strength in the st £8.2m write-off on stock as a result co and Stratacom of the US also look continue to grow.

and reducing the portfolio is only

Therein also lies its problem, as terday's results from Court around 60 per cent.

Slightly higher than previously indicated. But the decision to concentrate the business on Watford has lad to multiple of over 20, but the real hope must lie in takeover prospects. Hold.

Growing pains at Cavendish

of at least £2m for rents which will wipe out the cost savings to be derived from the latest factory closures.

Management has taken decisive action to focus the business, symbolised in yesterday's £11m deal to sell the profitable P-F International catapulted Court around the cost advanced 2.5 per cent. The present of the fine profitable profitable P-F International catapulted Court cavendish at least factory closures.

The £21.5m bid by Court Cavendish for rival nursing home group is illustrated by the fact that while overall fees rose 2.2 per cent, wage overall fees rose 2.2 per cent, wage overall fees rose 2.2 per cent. The present of the fine profitable profitable P-F International catapulted Court cavendish for rival nursing home group is illustrated by the fact that while overall fees rose 2.2 per cent, wage overall fees rose 2.2 per cent. The present contact that while overall fees rose 2.2 per cent, wage overall fees rose 2.2 per cent, wage overall fees rose 2.5 per cent. The present contact that while overall fees rose 2.5 per cent. The present contact that while overall fees rose 2.5 per cent. The present contact that while overall fees rose 2.5 per cent. The present contact that while overall fees rose 2.5 per cent. The present contact that while overall fees rose 2.5 per cent. The present contact that while overall fees rose 2.5 per cent. The present contact that while overall fees rose 2.5 per cent. The present contact that while overall fees rose 2.5 per cent. The present contact that while overall fees rose 2.5 per cent. The present contact that while overall fees rose 2.5 per cent. The present contact that while overall fees rose 2.5 per cent. The present contact that while overall fees rose 2.5 per cent. The present contact that while overall fees rose 2.5 per cent. The present contact that while overall fees rose 2.5 per cent. The present contact that while overall fees rose 2.5 per cent. The present contact that while overall fees rose 2.5 per cent. The present contact that while overall fees

leaseback deal with Abbey Life on two of its homes, the addition of Greenacre will raise gearing from a year-end figure of 35 per cent to

extra beds the group has either built or acquired in the past two years. Opwith Sherwood

all the increase came from the 387

erating margins were broadly un-

changed at just under 21 per cent.

sive £19.4m deficit at the pre-tax level after new management threw level after new management threw level after new management to the profitable P-E International sell the profitable P-E International unconditional, catapulted Court shortage of nursing staff and the well unconditional, catapulted Court shortage of nursing staff and the well unconditional, catapulted Court shortage of nursing staff and the well shortage of nursing staff and the well unconditional, catapulted Court shortage of nursing staff and the well unconditional, catapulted Court shortage of nursing staff and the well unconditional, catapulted Court shortage of nursing staff and the well unconditional, catapulted Court shortage of nursing staff and the well unconditional, catapulted Court shortage of nursing staff and the well unconditional, catapulted Court shortage of nursing staff and the well unconditional, catapulted Court shortage of nursing staff and the well unconditional, catapulted Court shortage of nursing staff and the well unconditional, catapulted Court shortage of nursing staff and the well unconditional, catapulted Court shortage of nursing staff and the well unconditional, catapulted Court shortage of nursing staff and the well unconditional, catapulted Court shortage of nursing staff and the well unconditional. This the dismal tidings were to the AIM-quoted Lorien. The total court shortage of nursing staff and the well unconditional publicised problems of local authority funding for the elderly. These difficulties contributed to the court short s

Even after yesterday's £6.7m sale and

Earnings growth this year will be held back by a further 280 bed development programme and a sharply the move to depreciate property this year (at a cost of £732,000) and exceptional gains last time, there was underlying growth of 13 per cent. But all the increase game from the 327

Costs catch up

owards acquisition it they want to est charges soared as capital expension in the troubled textile sector hit by est charges soared from £10m to £18.4m. Sometics managed to the troubled textile sector hit by diture jumped from £10m to £18.4m.

Cray Electronics: at a glance Market value: £97.2m, share price 41p Five-Year record 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 Share price pence 272 265 26.2 0.84 25 2.25

costs, weak demand and weather that depressed sales of everything from woolly jumpers to socks. In fact, Sherwood has run into some of the same problems, only later.

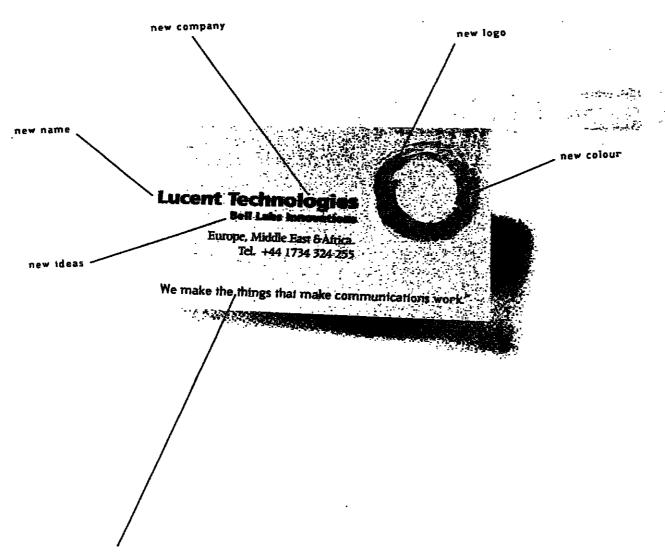
Yesterday's profits warning showed that the group's performance has been adversely affected by weak consumer demand, not in the UK but in continental Europe. The downturn will mean the half-year profits will show a "significant shortfall" on last year when the com-

pany made £1.24m.

In the garment division, the Italian lingerie manufacturer Lepel has been hit by weaker demand, particularly from supermarkets. European demand for Sherwood's lace

has also been under pressure, particularly from cheaper versions from Italy, and the company will take a £500,000 re-structuring this year to cut costs in Holland and Germany. The company needs to move upmarket to differentiate itself more and the only bright spot is the UK where the lace business improved.

With the board expecting the soggy market to continue throughout the summer before an upturn in the final quarter, there is little here to cheer shareholders. The shares fell another 9p to 73p yesterday. With Nat West forecasting full-year profits of £14m, the shares trade on a forward rating of 10. Given the uncertainties, that is about right.



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Ailing Wickes secures £18m from banks

PATRICK TOOHER

Wickes, the troubled DIY retailer laid low by the recent discovery of serious accounting irregularities, yesterday said it had secured the support of its syndicate of 11 banks to provide new lending fa-

Chairman Michael von Brentano said: "Our objective and that of our funding banks has been to ensure stability for the business. We have made it plain that the accounting issues which have been uncovered should not detract from the fact that our operating businesses are sound.

A Wickes spokesman said a working facility of £18m had been made available to the company. This replaces the £30m Wickes borrowed from a banking syndicate led by Barclays in February 1995, but had never fully



Resigned: Henry Sweetbaum will still be questioned

The news followed lengthy recent meetings with the bankers to assess the problems. They were concerned about Wickes' future following last week's revelations of an accounting scam going back

Wickes, the UK's third largest DIY retailer, has reiterated in the last week that the accounting problems have not resulted in a cash flow problem.

several years.

But the irregularities, described by the company as "de-liberately misleading", have resulted in an overstating of profits over several years. Latest internal estimates indicate that 1995 profits were overstated by £20m to £25m.

Wickes is currently in the throes of an internal investigation to discover the scale of the problem and its perpetrators. The thrust of the investigation, being carried out by accountants Price Waterhouse and law firm Linklaters & Paines, is believed to centre on the relationship be tween Wickes and its suppliers. Initial reports are expected next

Meanwhile the company's shares remain suspended at 69p, having almost halved when news

of the irregularities broke. Henry Sweetbaum resigned the next day as the £1m-a-year chairman and chief executive. Two senior managers have also been suspended pending the outcome of the inquiry which will interview Wickes' employees. including Mr Sweetbaum.

Buy-back hits RJB shares

MAGNUS GRIMOND

RJB Mining, Britain's biggest coal group, yesterday spent £94.3m buying back about 10 per cent of its outstanding shares. Richard Budge, chief executive, sold nearly 400,000 of his own holding but still retains 3.6 million shares.

The buy-back is expected to double gearing to around 60 per cent, but it should result in a 7 per cent enhancement to earn-

ings in a full year. Gordon McPhie, finance director, said it was a reward for shareholders who backed the £815m acquisition of the English assets of British Coal at the end of 1994.

"It's a good buy-back and I think very few people thought we could do this when we bought English Coal 18 months ago." He said it would not affect management share options, which became exercisable

from the beginning of June. The purchase, handled by the company's brokers Barclays de Zoete Wedd, lowered RJB's shares 13p to 540p yesterday. It coincided with a statement revealing that coal sales had slipped by 1 million tonnes to 20 million tonnes in the first half of 1996.

Comment, page 23

MATHEW HORSMAN Media Editor

Reed-Elsevier, the Anglo-Dutch publishing giant, yesterday scooped up a half-share in the leading US legal citation service. Shepard, paying about \$250m (£160m).

The deal, done in partnership with Times Mirror, the US publishing company, gives Reed a new partner to explore on-line publishing opportunities in the burgeoning US market.

For tax reasons, the deal has been structured as an asset swap between Times Mirror and McGraw Hill, which is offering Shepard in exchange for the Times Mirror Higher Edu-

cation Group. Nigel Stapleton, Reed's deputy chairman, said vesterday the acquisition would be earnings-enhancing. "This was a good opportunity, and an excellent fit with Times Mirror."

Reed's subsidiary, Lexus Nexus, is a leading on-line publishing service, and will be able to handle the electronic aspects of the Shepard business. Times Mirror subsidiary Matthew Bender is a leader in CD-Rom and hard-copy publishing. which makes the two companies "logical partners", Mr Stapleton said.

	COMPANY RESULTS							
	Ternover £	Pro-tax £	EPS	Dividend				
eurt Careadish (F)	25.6m (23.3m)	5.3m (4.7m)	21.2p (19.8p)	5.3p (4.6p)				
ray Blockranies (F)	227m (228m)	-19.4m (0.84m)	-8.4p (-0.3p)	nl (-)				
Group (F)	48.4m (44.2m)	2.36m (2.07m)	1.4p (1.28p)	0.3p (0.27p)				
orten (F)	18.0m (11.5m)	0.80m (0.41m)	7.05p (6.17p)	2.5p (-)				
Second Electric (F)	11,06n (10,3bn)	981m (891m)	22.6p (20.6p)	12.51p (11.37p)				
(f) - Final (l) - Interim	(M) - Nine months							



DATA BANK FESE 100 371A.1 -11.6 FT-SE 250 4366.2 9.8 1873.3 -5.5 SEAQ VOLUME 691 Im shares, 29:146 bargains

Last week it was riding high. profits progress, helped by a True, it had missed becoming a constituent of the FT-SE the year to end-March it pro-100 index but it seemed set to mount another powerful bid to join the exclusive blue-chip club when membership is reviewed in September.

But the office equipment group has blotted its copybook and Footsie dreams have evaporated. A surprise profit warning has sent the glamour-rated shares crashing yesterday they feli 35p to 448p making a crushing 237p fall since the caution became known last week. They reached 848p in May when Danka's market capitalisation approached

The slide, underlining the

A week is a long time in the stock market. Witness the fate of Danka Business Systems.

mere 42p in 1992. They have soared as, seemingly defying the odds, Danka made startling the odds, Danka made startling duced £53.9m and analysts pencilled in a confident £30m or so for the current year.

Although most observers still expect profits of the Florida-based group to advance this year, say to £73m, the Danka experience shows that Danka experience shows that high-flyers have little, if any, room for disappointment.

The mostly US investors who stumped up £129m in a places at the counter of

placing at the equivalent of 683p in February most be feel-ing particularly miffed.

Danka was not the only share to sink in another lacklustre session. Allied Domeco,



MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN Stock market reporter

of the year

a little by the disclosure that.

Labour's proposed windfall

ing interest, gained another

11p to 296p.
Yorkshire Type Tees TV.
Tuesday's star bid candidate.

held most of its gain, closing just 3p lower at 1,235p. Grana-

ing 2.5p to 173p. Footsie fell 11.6 points to 3.714.1 and there was not even the redeeming feature of much activity in the rest of the market. The Ken and Eddie meeting gaining 22p to 565p. A US came and went without any in-terest rate change but in the US the rate fixing FOMC meeting formation group where

could, it was feared, lead to higher transatlantic rates.
With Wall Street closed today and any activity tomorrow likely to be unsettled by the unpredictable US employment figures as well as any interest rate move, there was an in-

General Electric Co led blue chips as Lord Weinstock produced his last set of results as managing director. The betterthan-expected profits and dividend lifted the shares 12p to

363p in busy trading.
Pilkington's meetings with
analysts had little impact with the glass maker's shares unchanged at 183p. But paper and packaging group David S Smith, little changed at 277p shrugged off a downgrade from SBC Warburg; the investment house cut from £130m to £105m. formation group where Reuters is said to be display-

Redland, the building materials group, shaded 4p to 397p as Mees Pierson lowered its forecast by £5m to £332m. Unilever retreated 17p to 1357e on Meesill Lynch sell. 1,257p on Merrill Lynch sell

Sherwood, the clothing group, slipped 9p to 73p fol-lowing a profit warning; Cour-tanks Textiles lost 10p to 344p

lifted British Aerospace a few coppers and Warburg support coppers and warpurg support pulled FKI 3.5p bigher to 176p. RJB Mining, after its buy-back of 17.1 million shares at 551p through Barclays de Zoete Wedd, dropped 13p to

540p. Calluna, making miniature hard disks for computers, managed a 1p gain to 89p. The company said it was not aware of any reason for the recent share slide which has cut the price from around 120p. price from around 120p.

Prior, planning to buy much of Amstrad, gained 16p to 425p as chairman David Potter met institutional investors to outline the Amstrad deal. Newcomers continued to arrive on AIM. They included Circle Communications, a TV

rights group, which closed at 185p against the 170p placing. On Offex, Robotic Technology Systems touched 40p, closing at 30p against a 20p placing.

management team with a good track record" is how Nigel Popham of stockbroker Teather & Greenwood describes Glenchewton, the houseware group which has moved into pubs. He fore-casts profits of £1.7m this year with £3.2m in 1998. The pub operation is concentrating on food outlets and he expects the chain to double to 30 next year. The shares, which have had a good run lately, were unchanged at 61p.

> Two tiddlers tapped the market for cash. Greenhills, with an American-style restaurant opening in London's West End, pulled in around £200,000 placing shares at 14p and Surrey, a bookie, achieved a similar som with a 1p placing. It wants the cash to develop golf interests. Greenhills held at 15p; Surrey at 1p.

Gitts Index 92.80 - 0.11 SHARE SPOTLIGHT





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business

Small firms create more jobs, and other myths

t was a grim start to the working week. On Monday, three employers - shoe manufacturer Clarks, German computer firm Escom and the London Stock Exchange - between them announced 2,017 job cuts in Britain. Those of a gloomy disposition found the temptation to link the three announcements in a comment on the state of the economy irresistible.

Redundancies always have to be taken seriously, of course. But the trouble with monitoring company announcements is that it is difficult to be systematic. People pick out what they want to see, and many see only confirmation of their conviction that British industry is sliding down a sad worth of bad news does not paint a realistic portrait of the job market.

A month's worth of newspaper reports presents a slightly fuller picture. The table shows the job losses and gains that made the news in June only a tiny fraction of the actual totals. Even so, it shows that job losses and gains in a month chosen at random were pretty evenly balanced. In fact, there were slightly more new jobs than redundancies, although, not surprisingly, many more column inches written about the latter.

As the Stanford economist Paul Krugman has made it his mission to point out, you cannot hase a sensible view of the world on headline stories about big companies. The reason, as far as the outlook for jobs and unemployment goes, is that flows of jobs created and destroyed in any given period are far greater than the net increase or decrease in employment. Rates of job turnover in industrial economies are astonishingly high. OECD figures show that total turnover or realiocation of

Foreign Exchange Rates

Sterling



ECONOMIC VIEW DIANE COYLE

destruction plus creation of jobs as a proportion of the workforce - was in the range of 12-20 per cent from the mid-1980s to 1992. There was no marked transatlantic difference in turnover. The one exception was the UK, with an unusually low 9 per cent. And even that corresponds to about one in 11 jobs (that is, around two British industry is sliding down a sad spiral of decline. But one day's every year. The high turnover rates compared with rates of net job change of between minus 2 and plus

jobs for most countries - that is the cycle, which argue that economywide shocks cause aggregate fluctuations, are debunked too. The cyclical behaviour of employment across industries is extraordinarily varied. They do not react the same

way in recessions. Recessions are marked by a sharp increase in average job destruction rates and little change in job creation rates, meaning that job turnover rises too. The variation in job destruction over the business cycle is more pronounced among bigger and older

One day's worth of bad news does not paint a realistic portrait of the job market

Interest Rates

adds up to a lot of churning.

A new book* explores job turnover patterns in American manufacturing, toppling several myths in the process. One myth is that small firms create more jobs. This is true in the gross sense but not net, for small firms destroy a disproportionate number of jobs too. The authors write: "Because high job creation rates typify employers of all sizes, and because the manufacturing jobs base is dominated by large employers, large employers account for the bulk of job creation (and destruction)." The average US manufacturing plant has 1,600 employees.

Standard theories of the business

4 per cent during the same years. It firms. Smaller and younger firms display a much weaker pattern of boom and bust.

These facts suggest that a recession is a period of faster industrial restructuring rather than simply an economy-wide reaction to a common shock such as higher oil prices or a surprise increase in interest rates. An event like this is a trigger, but individual industries and companies react differently. The pace of restructuring subsides during a long recovery. The long-term trend decline in employment in manufacturing is due to slower job creation rather than faster job destruction.

As changes in the underlying job opportunities account for about half

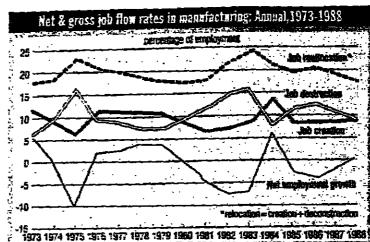
of the moves workers make between jobs or into and out of unemployment, unemployment also rises during recessions. During a recovery, moves into unemployment are dominated by new entrants and re-entrants to the labour market. During a recession, the rise in job destruction is the main reason.

Europeans, however, are far less likely to move from job to job via a short spell of unemployment, so even during good times inflows into unemployment are mainly due to job destruction. In America about one in 12 of the workforce moves into unemployment in an average quarter, and about the same proportion moves out. Both flows into and out of unem-

ployment rise during a recession. The study, based on the first comprehensive exploration of detailed statistics on individual US manufacturing plants during 1972-88, finds that rates of job creation and destruction are remarkably large. About one in 10 manufacturing jobs disappears every year and about as many new ones are created. The minimum in any year was one in 12.

The changes are concentrated on particular plants; two-thirds at plants which are expanding or contracting by more than 25 per cent. Plants that close account for fully a quarter of job destruction. The message is plain: job creation and destruction in the manufacturing sector often involve dramatic events such as the start-up of a new plant or the death of an old plant." Large scale job flows characterise all sectors of industry. Even shrinking industries display massive job creation and destruction, although the rate of turnover varies widely be-

tween industries. However, high wage and capital-intensive industries experience smaller





 300, Quintiles, US pharmaceuticals company, in new Scottish factory

Total gains: 2,175

reshuffling of job opportunities begross job flows. High wage jobs - typically in big firms - are more durable, speaks a constant reallocation of proand there is much faster net growth duction activity in the US ... and in jobs in high wage and high produc-tivity industries. The figures confirm other advanced market economies." What does this picture of constantly that job opportunities for the low-paid shifting activity, mainly within but also shrank during the 1970s and 1980s. between industries, imply for eco-The book concludes: "This large-

nomic policy? For one thing, it highlights the nit-

shake-up

1.920

Total losses:

falls in the very popular types of policies targeted on particular categories of company - say small businesses or companies investing in particular regions. For businesses are likely to have extremely diverse reactions to the incentives on offer. The outcome in terms of the number of jobs created is unpredictable, with individual companies likely to behave in entirch different ways, the new research suggests. It also indicates that big businesses will create more and longer-

lasting jobs than small companies. Secondly, because workers face a high risk of their job vanishing - a 10 per cent chance in any year - then: is a great advantage in having a workforce that is flexible in the sense of having strong basic skills. There is no sense in training people in specific skills because they could well find the

relevant job opportunities vanishing. The third conclusion is that governments should think carefully about the detailed impact of policy measures. Cuts in different types of spending such as defence or roadbuilding will trigger restructuring in certain industries or regions. These could have a bigger impact on jobs a than changes in interest rates or taxes.

The final moral is that the constant and massive turnover in jobs - which Joseph Schumpeter, the favourite economist of free-marketeers, would have claimed as part of the "creative destruction" of capitalism - means it is impossible to draw any conclusions from one day's headlines. Dull as it is, we will have to wait for official statistics on the net change in employment to take the economy's temperature.

* Job Creation and Destruction, Steven Davis, John Haltiwanger and Scott Schuh, MIT Press, June 1996, £23.50.

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Key d e buy seli Copies of the most recent managers' re-ports and scheme perticulars are evidence from fund managers tree on request Crown Estate profits: Record results for the owner of Pall Mall and a large chunk of Regent Street

Taxpayers take £94m from royal property

PATRICK TOOHER

The Crown Estate, owner of Windsor Great Park and prime central London estates, including Pall Mall and large tracts of Regent Street and Kensington, yesterday capped an eventful year by announcing record results most property companies would die for.

And for once, the biggest winners will be not be shareholders, but taxpayers. Under the terms of a deal

struck with a cash-strapped King George III in 1760, the monarch agreed to hand over the entire revenue surplus of the Crown Estate in return for the Civil List.

It is a constitutional settlement the monarchy has lived to regret. Payments under the Civil List currently cost the nation £7.9m a year, whereas the Crown Estate will hand over a cheque to Chancellor Kenneth Clarke for £94.6m, 11.5 per cent

more than a year ago.

According to Christopher Howes, the Crown Estate's chief executive, the upkeep of the Royal Family, including head of state expenses, costs about £50m a year, "substan-

tially less than our surplus". The value of the Crown Estate's core property holdings, which also include almost 210,000 acres of agricultural land, Scottish fish farms and a retail park at Altrincham in Cheshire, rose a tenth to £2.2bm, "These excellent results front of the UK's leading prop-

erty investment companies, said Sir Denys Henderson, the former boss of ICI and Zeneca, who took over as chairman in

August.
The Crown Estate has increased its revenue surplus every year for the past decade, showing strong growth right through the recession when many property companies plunged into loss. Mr Howes forecasts that the revenue surdus will break through the £100m barrier in the year to March 1997.

Mr Howes attributed its suc-cess to the discipline of having no borrowing powers. Unlike the Church Commissioners, which lost hundreds of millions financing development with debt, the Crown Estate can only invest with cash raised from asset sales.

The Crown Estate courted controversy last year when it became in embroiled in a row over the felling of ancient oak and lime trees in Windsor Great Park.

The felling of oaks in Queen Anne's Ride was halted after representations to Buckingham Palace from conservationists and protests from local councils, residents and activists who camped in tree-houses.

Prince Philip later approved plans for restoring the park avenue, preserving 20 trees he had originally intended to cut

After conducting a review of plans for restoring the three-Crown Estate right at the forein the 1720s, the Crown Estate
to the 12-mile territorial limbut he dismissed suggestions decided that the oldest oaks



Prime site: Much of London's Regent Street is owned by the Crown Estate, which has just announced a record year

would be preserved.

The Crown Estate also owns over half the UK's foreshore and almost all of the seabed out

which survived the chainsaws dealing with the recently privatised water companies and port authorities had forced the Crown Estate to adopt a more commercial approach,

might one day be privatised. The annual report, also published yesterday, revealed that Mr Howes' pay, including per-formance-related bonuses, rose to £135,237 from £103,982. He also received a £13,297 termi-

nal bonus on the expiry of his contract. A new, two-year contract was subsequently signed.
Mr Howes defended his salary package. "I'm not a fat cat," he said. "In fact I'm rather

City bids and deals yield £500m in fees of public and private mergers and acquisitions.

PETER RODGERS Financial Editor

Bankers, brokers, accountants, lawyers and public relations firms earned £500m from City bids and deals in the first half of the year and are on course to top £1bn for 1996, the magazine Acquisitions Monthly said vesterday.

This would be their most lucrative year, eclipsing the previous record of £950m at the height of the merger mania of the 1980s, when fees reached £950m.

Philip Healey, editor of the magazine, said: The frenzied activity in the first half of 1996 had to be paid for and it did not come cheap."

In the first six months, there

were 729 acquisitions worth £27.3bn, with the highest number of public company bids since 1990. The period also saw enormous shifts of position among the big investment banks, with Barings, owned by ING, dropping from top posi-tion in 1995 to 11th with £3.2bn

Source: Acquisitions Monthly

Michael Lennox

Louise Marchant

Yaron Levi

Union Bank of Switzerland shot up the league table from 20th in 1995 as a whole to fifth in the first half of 1996, with 10 deals worth £4.7bn. By number of transactions, it was top for

public company bids, advising on nine. BZW was another riser, up from 17th to sixth. Bids and deals among the utilities continued to be one of the main sources of income, but the Granada takeover of Forte and the Rentokil battle for BET were among the other takeovers that helped the fees bonanza. As a result of advising on these two takeovers, Lazards topped the ist with £7.25bn.

Among private deals, Lazards advised Liverpool Victoria on the acquisition of Frizzell Group and Firstbus on its purchase of several bus companies.

SBC Warburg rose from third to second place with £6.8bn of deals, including 43 in which it acted for the Government on the sale of British Rail assets

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Market abuse targeted by Large

PETER RODGERS **Business Editor**

Sir Andrew Large, chairman of the Securities and Investments Board, yesterday called for a change in the law to make it easier to bring civil proceedings against market manipulators and to publish the names of people banned from the City.

Speaking at a London conference a fortnight after the Sumitomo affair revealed massive and long-standing manipulation of the copper market, Sir-Andrew said the financial services legislation was drafted more for investor protection than supervision of the markets.

The regulators had limited scope to act against market abuse on their own and their power to investigate suspected

Exchange Commission, SIB's powers were limited to superthe broader issue of controlling market manipulation.

The UK system concentrated on enforcing good conduct on businesses authorised to work in financial services. But market manipulation and insider dealing frequently took place among people who were not running authorised businesses.

prosecutions for offences such as market manipulation and insider trading because of the height of the hurdles that had to be mounted to succeed in court.

ising exchanges rather than

Unlike the US Securities and

credibility problem with criminal

abuse outside the authorised He added: "Abuse by the un- be given back and make restilimited, he regulated often seeks to exploit tution to victims, whether or not

the benefits of regulated markets and yet undermines investor confidence in them. There are lessons we can learn from those countries which have chosen to adopt non-criminal remedies as part of their overall approach to dealing with cases of market

Sir Andrew said he did not want to decriminalise market abuse and there would always be cases that merited prosecution. "But I do think that we should consider seriously the possibility of introducing civil powers, Sir Andrew said there was a whether adminstratively or

through the courts." This would allow regulators to deal with cases that did not merit criminal prosecution. They could levy fines, order profits to

investment businesses

Sir Andrew also said the investor protection system needed to be improved. There were 20 different recognised bodies. which made the system difficult to understand, and some "strange anomalies" such as the ability of firms to choose

their own regulator. Sir Andrew also found it strange that the law limited SIB's scope for publicising the names of people banned from operating in the City.

He also wanted changes in the legal framework under which some of SIB's investigative powers could only be used if one of the other regulatory bodies asked it to intervene.

Today, on the occasion of the 1996 London Business School Summer Congregation, we acknowledge and congratulate the following degree students in completing the Full-time MBA Programme at London Business School. They come from 41 countries and will be working with the world's top employers. We wish them all the best.

Don Addington Anthony Albuquerque Ser Keng Ang David Arnott David Aron Manuel Asali Geoffrey Baird Catherine Baran Dainis Barups Riccardo Bauerns Julian Beck Mikael Berntson Stephan Bey Margarida Bicho Paul Brennan Olivier Bruslé Timothy Bryant Richard Bydawell Anita Califano Robert Cameron Esther Canonico Michael Carey Peter Casimary Weimin Chang Charles Chau

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Mahmut Kaya

Jennifer Kwok

Patricia Leckman

Aidan Douglas

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Andersen's political double-act

Andersen Consulting is fielding two candidates in the next general election who, if successful, will face each other on opposite sides of the House. Patricia Hewitt and Mary Macleod have been selected as prospective candidates by the Labour Party and Conservative Party respectively. This might have embar-

rassed some employers, but not Andersen Consulting's UK managing partner James Hall: Although they have different political views, they share with all of us at Andersen Consulting a real commitment to the future of Britain," he says diplomatically. Ms Hewitt made her name

as general secretary of the National Council for Civil Liberties, a post she held for 10 years. This week she was selected to stand for Leicester West, already a Labour seat. Ms Macleod, on the other hand, will have to overturn Liberal Democrat Charles Kennedy's 6,000 majority in Ross, Skye & Inverness.

"There's all to play for," says Ms Macleod, who went to school in the constituency. So do the two candidates swap debating points over the

CITY DIARY

JOHN WILLCOCK



Agreeing to differ: Patricia Hewitt (left) and Mary Macleod

photocopier at work? Ms Macleod says: "I don't actually bump into her. The first time I met her was for the photo this week."

The latest joke doing the rounds in Moscow: "There is

You could soon be sipping gourmet coffees from Burundi, Brazil, Ethiopia, Papua New Guinea and Uganda thanks to a \$1m grant from the London-based International Coffee Organisation (1CO). ICO secretary Paul Dubois says people are already prepared to pay premium prices for recognised gournet coffees like Jamaican Blue Mountain. These five countries could gain big overseas earnings if they can develop similar top brands.

This does not mean charging out and planting new crops, however. The secret is in identifying the best production techniques and areas to grow the beans, says Mr Dubois. For instance, a pound of unroasted Ecuador Arabica beans costs \$1.10 on international markets, while Blue Mountain would set you back \$15. Me, I'm off for a cuppa.

no truth in the rumours that Yeltsin is ill. He has had several meetings with Brezhnev

in the past week."

A sticky moment at Sainsbury's AGM. A shareholder gets up and asks why no directors were nominated in the latest Queen's Honours list. After all, he says, you have Sir Alistair Grant at Safeways and Sir Ian MacLaurin at Tesco - why no knights on the

Sainsbury team? The chairman, plain Mr David Sainsbury, rises to reply: There are already two former chairmen of Sainsbury in the House of Lords, and a third might look ostentatious. But I'm trying hard, and I'll report

back at future meetings."
Perhaps it was Mr Sainsbury's bankrolling of the SDP in the 1980s which keeps him

You've had inflatable Sumo wrestlers. Now prepare for Human Skittles, American Airlines is holding its annual event at the Broadgate Centre in the City, and this year 48 City teams will battle it out dressed up in giant polystyrene skittle suits. While victims pose as skittles, the other team swings a giant ball at them.

British Airways, whose plan to team up with American Airlines is being hotly debated, is also involved. Virgin's Richard Branson has not been invited to field a team, however. An American spokesman explains: "They're not based in the City." How will the great publicist hit back, I wonder? Human

clay pigeon shooting,

Talking of Mr Branson, the Virgin boss has just awarded air stewardess "wings" to Lisa Leeson, wife of Nick, the Barings trader now doing time in Singapore. Mrs Leeson, 27, joined Virgin in the normal way and completed a

six-month training course. The job guarantees her cheap flights to visit her husband at the notorious Changi prison, where he is serving a six-and-a-half-year sentence. Nick Leeson is allowed two 20-minute visits each month, but his wife could not afford the £600 return air fares from her job as a waitress in a Maidstone tearoom.

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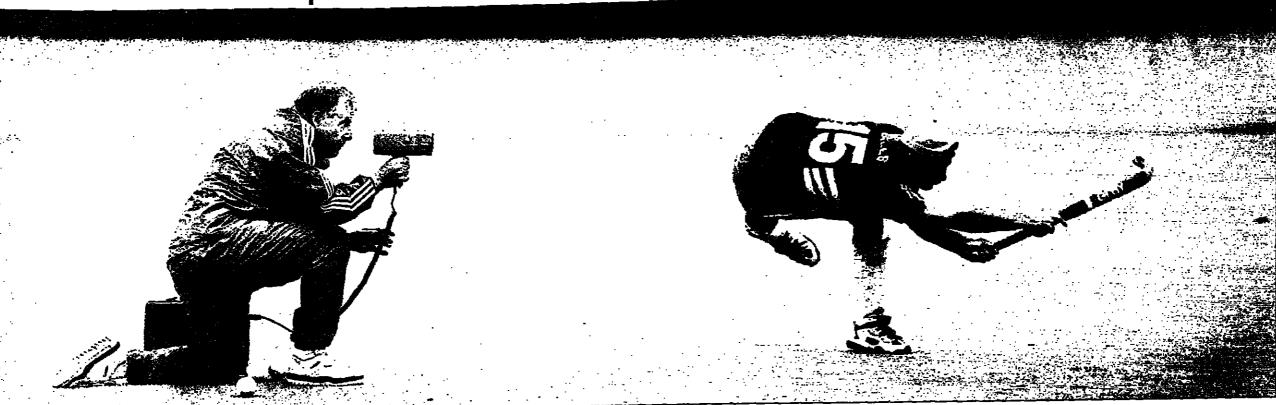
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Britain's sharpshooter locked on target for Olympic spree



In a quest to improve the goal-scoring strike rate of the Great Britain men's hockey side. David Whittle, the manager, has been using a speed gun to clock Calum Giles' shooting from penalty corners during training this week at Bisham Abbey, writes Bill Colwill.

The management of the Great Britain squad, who today meet Italy

in their final international before attempt to convert penalty corners. departing for Atlanta on Sunday, borrowed the Unipar speed gun from the Lawn Tennis Association.

Giles is in the team specifically to convert penalty corners. He dashes from the team bench when a corner is awarded to do his deadly striking. Some coaches have doubted the validity of employing a person just to claiming it is ethically wrong. A Dutch coach went as far as saying it was a form of cheating.

David Whitaker, the former England and Great Britain coach, took the view that if the rules of the game allow it, and he could turn it to Britain's advantage, then he would do so. Giles met with immediate success: his nine goals in his first mafor tournament - the European Cup in Dublin last summer - during England's seven games made him the first Englishman to win the European Cup top goal-scorer trophy. Further success followed, no-

Britain's 17 goals. Since Barcelona things have not been going well for the 23-year-old from Havant, though. First a hernia operation. then a change of sticks, then hiccups in the corner drill involving pushouts and stick stopping, with the retably in the Olympic qualifying sult that he has now failed to score on with his regular practising, and competition in Barcelona earlier this in his last five internationals. Worse vesterday he achieved a 62.9mph year when he netted eight of still goals have been in short sup-

ply from the rest of the team. In the initial practice sessions at Bisham, Russell Garcia, the surviving gold medallist from the Seoul Olympics, had the edge on Giles and was averaging in excess of 60 miles per hour. Undaunted, Giles has pressed strike as he regularly flashed the hall

past the goalkeepers Simon Mason and David Lucks.

Whittle said there was pressure on Giles to justify his selection and keep face with his team-mates. If the help of the gun and competition from Garcia has turned the corner for Giles, Britain's Atlanta prospects will be significantly improved

Photograph: Robert Hallam

Attacking England risk failure

DEREK PRINGLE

Cricket Correspondent

Trent Bridge was awash with puddles vesterday, causing the England and Indian teams to cancel net practice in favour of shopping and work-outs in the hotel gym. With the pitch unwas to pack Ian Salisbury off to ArundeL where Sussex are playing Hampshire.

Apparently the state of the pitch does not warrant playing a second spinner in today's Third Test. This means that Min-Patel definitely plays and the only outstanding decision left for the selectors this morning will be to decide between Mark Ealham and Ronnie Irani.

We looked at the pitch and decided we didn't need two spinners," said the England captain. Mike Atherton, who had consoled Salisbury before sending him on his way. "I had a chat with lan. He knows he's our leg-spinner and that's important. Not many finger spinners win Test matches these days, and in the mid to long term we're going to be looking at him to be part of the scenery. and I hope he's gone away happier knowing that.

All it's down to now is whether we go for a stronger fifth bowler or a stronger batter. But whatever 11 we choose, we will be looking to win the match. In my experience it's always dangerous to sit back and play for

the draw. Rain and cricket mix worse than oil and water, and yesterday's damp and abandoned Trent Bridge looked the last place an important Test match was about to be played. As ever, it is a disguise well worn, and a

THE INDEPENDENT

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victory here is crucial to both teams: salvaging pride for India while reinforcing claims that England are at last becoming a consistent Test force.

However, as the latter is usually associated with continuity of selection. England are again flaunting convention by changing their side. Having been sed at Lord's. Patel is certain to play, and although Irani's batting played an important role in helping to save the game there, the balance of the side at Trent Bridge appears to have tilted towards the ball. As such, Ealham's superiority as a fourth

scamer is likely to be favoured. But, whichever team the selectors finally decide on, it will be the 26th Test in a row not to have fielded the same 11 as the previous Test. So far this summer most of us have applauded the selection panel, particularly some of its more imaginative choices. Yet, if we go back to the First Test, there is a clear lack of logic in playing Ealham.

At Edgbaston, the line given was that if a spinner played, then trani (an all-rounder) would play and not the extra batsman (at that stage John Crawley). In fact. Patel played and Irani hit a memorable camen to give the England innings some muchneeded momentum. However. for the Second Test at Lord's, the spinner was left out. But, instead of playing the extra batsman. Irani again batted at No 6 and was used sparingly as

the fifth seamer. Now, with Patel reselected. the original situation has returned once more, though this time it is Irani who is likely to sit things out. With England one up and India likely to play a sec-ond leg-spinner in Narendra Hirwani. it still seems curious



performance in the last Test has that England, despite their the expense of Ajay Jadeja. clearly given Mohammed Azha-

laudable claims of going for a win, should risk leaving themselves wide open by batting Russell - despite his century at No 5, particularly on a pitch, should the weather hold, that will probably begin to turn by

the fourth day.

The inclusion of Hirwani for the wayward Paras Mhambrey is not the only change India are likely to make in trying to level the series, and the enhanced

ruddin and his men a new boldness of heart. Thanks to Sourav Ganguly and Rahul Dravid adding new steel to what had been up until Lord's a one-man batting order. India can at last afford to attack. This inevitably means dropping a batsman in favour of playing another bowler and, in all likelihood, the strapping seamer Salil Ankola will join forces with Javagal Srinath and Venkatesh Prasad, at er. Whatever England claim, a

At Lord's, England were perhaps fortunate to escape with a draw but, if the plaudits for that went to the batsmen, England were rightly fined for keeping a slovenly over-rate during India's marathon first innings.

As Atherton pointed out yesterday, once the taxman has had his 40 per cent slice of the match fee and the ICC theirs, there is not a lot left for the playdraw will suit them here. Thankfully, last week's fine should en-

sure it is achieved without resorting to slow over-rates. ENGLAND (v India, Third Test, Trent Bridge, starting today) (from): M A Atharton (capt), A J Stewart. N Hussen, G P Thorpe, G A Hick, R C Iran, M A Eatharn, R C Russel (Mdy, C C Lews, D G Cork, M M Patel, A D Multally. INDIA (from): V.S. Rathore, N.R. Mongia (wkt), S.C. Ganguly, S.R. Tendurkar, M. Azhanuddin (capt), R.S. Dravid, A. Kumble, J. Smath, S.A. Arkola, B.K.Y. Prasad, N.O. Hinsani, S.L.V. Raju,

Umpires: G Sharp (Eng), K T Francis (Sn Lan-ka), TV replay umpire: D J Constant.

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

University match Oxford v Cambridge

ins. Umpires: J C Balserszone and A Clarkson, ...

E wage 24.1.24 (Invitor) 141-44. Umpires: A Julian and I. J. Lyons. NO PLAY YESTERDAY: Tour match (first day of three; 11.0 today): Headingley: Yorkiwe v South Alvia A. OTHER RESIATS: Sporting Dighet, page 30.

Starting today 11.0 unless states

Rough spell ahead for swinging Els

Golf

TIM GLOVER reports from County Wicklow

If you are not familiar with Druids Glen, the venue for the Murphy's Irish Open. it is because the course has yet to celebrate its first birthday. However, they like to say it has been hundreds of years in the making. The place owes its name to the high priests who worshipped in the thickly forested countryside in the lifth

century. As a reminder of their presence here (the folklore has it that they were such a fearsome bunch they repelled St Patrick) a druid's altar remains near the picturesque 12th, a hole that draws more inspiration from the 12th at Augusta National than

from any pagan ritual.

Druids Glen has been built with about £14m of Nigerian money and the brief to the designers, Pat Ruddy and Tom Craddock, was to create the finest inland course in Ireland. There are those who think they have pulled it off... and those who don't.

Professional golfers do not refer to what the promoters describe as a "Garden of Eden within the Garden of Ireland" or to the intention to "march them through every emotional vista, from the pathetique associated with the ripples on the water of a lake which has just swallowed another ball to the ultimate appassionata springing from one's tee shot snuggling

close to the pin." No, they harp on about one

thing: the rough. Bernhard Langer, who finished runner up in the French Open last week, said: "It is very long, very narrow, lots of rough. The rough is severe along the fairways and around the edges of the greens. There's lots of water and there are some trees sticking out into where you

want to shape your tee shot.
"At 18, I had as good a drive as possible and a three-iron and did not reach the green. When it is calm it is all right but when the wind blows it is going to be extremely difficult. If they play the back tees, two or three under par will win it. They will have to put some of the tees forward."

This is Ernie Els on the same subject: "The rough is tougher than in the US Open in that it is loose here and the ball does not come out the same. At the US Open you could work on a shot and you could bounce the ball out. Here it is very loose and soft. You'll be lucky to get a good shot out of it."

Els, playing in his first tournament since finishing lifth in

the US Open at Oakland Hills. Detroit, has been working on his swing with Bob Torrance. "My game is not what it was a couple of weeks ago," Els said. "My arms and body are not

working together at the mo-

ment. It is not far off. Just lit-

tle things. Bob's son, Sam, thought the course was in excellent condition, but added: "They've tried to do what they did in the Eng lish Open and put grass around the greens. It doesn't suit the course. It is horrific to chip it out." Despite the fact that Torrance won the Irish Open at Mount Juliet 12 months ago, he would like to

Portmarnock. It was, in fact, scheduled for the great links course on the outskirts of Dublin but there was a cooling of relations between the club and sponsors. and the official verdict was that Portmarnock was not up to the required standard.

see the championship return to

I thought it was the best venue, a great test of golf and a great seaside course coming up to the Open," Torrance said. "But you have to think of the sponsors. Dublin is not a great place for Murphy's. A lot of the other black stuff is sold there."

Enter Druids Glen with Pat Ruddy in full swing, "The first task," he said, "is to produce excellent and valid golf. This must be fitted into the landscape with sensitivity and delicacy. After that, golf is entertainment and we make every effort to excite the senses with glorious visions of a lovely landscape, offering all the possibilities for golfing elation or deflation. The tiger within every golfer will always respond."

Colin Montgomerie, who gives the impression he would like to play every week in elephant grass, is that tiger providing, of course, that teddy remains in the pram. This is a great course," Monty said. "The rough is not too severe. There is no gift and there's nothing wrong with that. The more quality courses the tour plays the stronger the tour will become and this is one of the quality courses."

It is also one of the quality clubhouses, once owned, in 1827, by the Bishop of Clogher. The poor man suffered from a skin complaint and was advised to bath in red wine. His butler siphoned off the wine and flogged it to a pub in Kilcoole. The regulars did not complain. Evidently they thought it was full of body...

Davies chases title

The Swede Annika Sorenstam, the United States Open champion, defends her golf title in the strongest field of the season in the Hennessy Cup, which begins at Refrath, near Cologne, to-

twice won over the course. Britain's Laura Davies, who won the Evian Masters two weeks ago for her fourth victory of the year, will be chasing an elusive title. Davies, who has stolen a

march on her rivals by arriving Eight members of Europe's at the course in her new Ferrari, 1994 Solheim Cup side are in came closest to winning three Germany, including two other years ago when she was beaten Swedes, Helen Alfredsson and in a sudden-death play-off by Lotta Neumann, who have



Cambridge sing the dark blues

NORMAN HARRIS

reports from Lord's Oxford University 513-6 dec Cambridge University 164-3

A minor actor, Mark Wagh, played the shot of the day and made history in the 151st University match. A quick, twirling motion, the bat assuming the ver-tical like a flag stick held aloft, saw the ball disappear over the short leg-side boundary. That brought a fleeting image of old-time

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dashers like CB Fry, and that was and then picked up a further 45 appropriate, since the stroke took the total past the Varsity match's previous record of 503made, also by Oxford, in 1900.

Fry was not playing in that one, having made his Dark Blue appearances just a few years previously. The biggest contribution was the 171 - another record by R E Foster, assisted by, among others, BJT Bosanquet. The big difference, though, is that 96 years ago Oxford were not invited to bat first, as they were here. In that context Russell Cake,

the Cambridge captain, also made history. An Oxford innings extended almost to lunch (the 1900 version lasted only 20 minutes into the second day) must have come close to embarrassing this cool, intelligent young man. But there would have been frustration, too. Will Kendall, 79 overnight, was again dropped. On the first day, mis-hooking on 11, he was reprieved by two fielders calling for the catch and then colliding. On 89, he was again put down at midwicket.

There were no more chances as Kendall went to his hundred

easy runs before the declaration. He may have been overshadowed the previous day by Andrew Ridlev's 155, but he had batted just as long - four hours and faced 50 fewer balls. In gloomy, misty weather.

Cambridge's reply began con-fidently. Captain Cake put himself in first, as if to atone for his sins. If anything he was playing with greater composure than anyone before him, and had just taken 17 from an over when he reached forward to Pierre Du Preez and edged to third slip.

Ed Smith and Anurag Singh also played freely against attacking fields. Cambridge's 164 by the end included 18 fours and four sixes, but they had also lost three wickets, including that of Singh - arguably the finest prospect on show here - as he went forward and was given lbw.

Cambridge's response to the record total in 1900 was to make 392, which also bettered the previous record. They will do well to make that many now, though still well within their compass should be the 1900 result ~ a draw.

Britannic Assurance County Championship First day of four: 11.0 today Sussex v Hampshire ARUNDEL: Hampahire (Opts) are 82 for 4 in their first innings against Sussex (1).

Tetley's Chailenge Series First day of three; 11.0 today Somerset v Pakistan TAUNION: Polaistan are 253 for 5 in their first

TAUNTON: Pakintain are 253 for 5 in the innings.
Sometset won loss
PANISTAIN - First landings
**Aarm Schald C Turner b Shane
Saed Armar b Lee
Shahad Armar b Lee
Shahad Armar b Lee
Intarmam-ut-hag c Turner b Lee
Intarm Pate 1-2, 2-51, 3-208, 4-21-4, 5-22-3, To bate Worker Young, Mashtag Ahmed, Ata-ur-Rehman, Mohammad Akram, Bowling: Shine 15-0-77-2; Lee 19-4-59-3, van Trook 7-0-28-0; Bashog 7-0-29-0. 25-19-0; Bashog 7-0-29-0. 25-20-20; Bashog 7-0-29-0.

SUE MONTGOMERY

Old sins have long shadows, and Valanour will blow away two sets and amateur jockey, succeeded if he wins the Eclipse Stakes on the late François Mathet 13 Saturday. Twenty years ago Trepan became the first Frenchtrained horse to pass the post first in Sandown's summer of the red-and-green silks, including three Jockey-Club winfew weeks later on a doping Mouktar and Natroun.

since then has come closer than Triptych, who was second to Dancing Brave in 1986, but his form passes close scrutiny. Valancur, trained by Alain Royer-Dupré, must have a bright chance of avenging his compatriot's loss. And as well as Gerin April he quickened well to acald Mosse, the colt's elegant bay shoulders will also bear the burden of becoming the Aga Khan's first winner in Britain that rain might put paid to the colt's bid for a third top-level since his self-imposed exile after another doping contretemps, the infamous Aliysa

At Royal Ascot, Ashkalani

came within a head of being that the ground came up very soft at winner, and giving Royer- Longchamp in May. Dupré, 52, his first victory in Britain into the bargain. The Chantilly-based horseman, foryears ago as the Aga Khan's trainer and has won most of ners in four years, Darshaan,

None of the 10 Gallic raiders son of Lomond, has already an-Valanour, a four-year-old nexed two 10-furlong Group One races, and when at his best In last year's Grand Prix de Paris he had a neck to spare over Singspiel, and in the Prix Ganay count for Luso and Swain.

Royer-Dupré's main worry is victory. He said: "Valanour has tended to show his best form on a sound surface, and he was forced to bypass the Prix d'Ispahan [won by Halling] when

"However, prior to that he had out up two impressive performances to take both the Prix d'Harcourt in April followed by the Prix Ganay, and, in my opinion, he is a better horse than last season. Royer-Dupré added: "There

> RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Suave Star (Haydock 7.20) NB; Temptress (Haydock 7.50)

is no doubt that the Eclipse will be a very hot event - with the likes of Halling, Pentire, Singspiel, Bijou D'Inde and Definite Article, it couldn't be anything else could it? - and there is no doubting that it will take an excellent horse to win it. But having said that, Valanour is very well."

The turf at Sandown is currently good to firm, and being watered both artificially and naturally. Any further easing, though bad news for Royer-

Weld, who will decide tomorrow was introduced in 1994 - have morning whether or not to send been named for the season's fiover Definite Article from Ire-

The Tattersalls Gold Cup winner has been one of the gambles of the race - backed from 16-1 to 6-1 - but Weld said yesterday: "I want to see what the ground is likely to be - he might need a little more give than there is at Sandown. I've got until Friday to decide and I might as well wait until then."

One definite non-runner is Godolphin's Charmwood Forest. The Queen Anne Stakes winner will wait for the Sussex Stakes at Goodwood, leaving his stablemate Halling, last year's Eclipse winner, to do duty in the blue colours on Saturday. Pentire has hardened to 2-1 favourite with the £250,000 race's sponsors Corals, who then go 3-1 Halling, 5-1 Valanour, 11-2 Singspiel, 6-1 Definite Article, 7-1 Bijou d'Inde, 20-1 Ela-Aristokrati

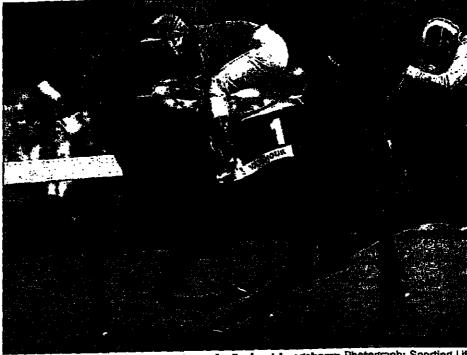
and 25-1 Beauchamp King. Looking further ahead, 54 horses - the smallest number

Dupré's hopes, will suit Dermot since the summer entry stage nal Classic, the St Leger at Doncaster on 14 September.

The two most notable omissions are Even Top and, sadiy, Derby hero Shaamit. The oldest and longest of the five Classics was never on the agenda of the latter, whose trainer has expressed the view that victory would have done nothing for his charge's future stud prospects.

Even Top, who gashed a leg when finishing a disappointing 13th at Epsom, is perhaps a more surprising absentee. But his trainer Mark Tompkins regards the colt, beaten a shorthead in the Guineas, as a genuine middle-distance operator, and is eyeing the 10-furlong trip of the Juddmonte International at York next

Nine Derby runners are entered, ranging from runner-up Dushyantor to 17th-placed St Mawes, and among the seven fillies are three of the first four in the Oaks, Lady Carla, Pricket and Camporese.



Gerald Mosse steering Valanour to an April win at Longchamp Photograph: Sporting Life

Swan's luck on wane as plan stalls

Yorkshire trainer Martyn fused to enter the stalls and was 24 hours earlier, will not now be Wane's bid to win three races in three days with Swan At Whalley came unstuck at Catterick yesterday when the horse re-

withdrawn from the Dragon Troop Handicap.

ley, successful at Musselburgh claimed Wane.

able to run at Ayr this evening roop Handicap. because he first has to pass a stalls test. "I just can't win," ex-

YARMOUTH

2.00 FARAWAY LASS (nap) 2.30 Retoto 3.00 Monaassib

4.00 Star And Garter 4.30 Oasida 5.00 Don't Drop Bombs 3.30 Hippy (nb)

HYPERION

GOING: Good to Firm (back straight - Firm, watering). STALLS: Straight - for side: rest - builde. DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.

Left-hand course, level and fair.

Racecourse is north of town on A149. Yarmouth rail station one mile away. ADMISSION: Club 512; Tattersalls 58.50; Family and course enclosure \$4.50. CAR PARE: \$1.

ELEADING TRAINERS WITH EUNDERS: C Britisia - 19 winners from 147 runners at a ratio of 1:2% giving a return to a 51 level scale of +534.45; El Cecil - 17 winners, 83 runners, 21.5%, -531.54; B BHs - 13 winners, 43 runners, 30.2%, +522.00; G Wrange - 12 winners, 85 runners, 17.5%, -520.14; El Rell - 12 winners, 17 runners, 16.2%, -564.5 B Marrier - 10 winners, 65 runners, 14.7%, -51.25.

LEADING JOCKETTE, R BHBs - 37 winners, 135 rides, 22.5%, +455.52; L Bettori - 35 winners, 136 rides, 13.7%, -544.38; M BHBs - 25 winners, 144 rides, 18.1%, +565.57; P Robinson - 22 winners, 146 rides, 15.1%, -556.57; P Robinson - 22 winners, 147 rides, 15.5%, -527.18; G Dwiffield - 18 winners, 117 rides, 15.4%, +524.48;

RLINGERED FREST THIS Christian Photo: 100 Groundstries Model (2.50) College Middle (vigner) 2.500

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Christian Flight (200), Georgial Maiden (200), College Night (visused 300) WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: Furning Law (2.00) was at Salstony lea. Thursday. LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Aján (5.00) sex 255 milestican G Lejenny's Whitemore static in Date.

2.00 FRED ARMSTRONG HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,200 added 6f Penalty Value £2,961

- 7 deck

SETTING: 5-4 Foremay Less, 7-2 Chooley Chappy, 5-1 Soow Felcob, 8-1 Red Admiral, 10-1 Judgs-ment Call, 12-1 Seper Park, 14-1 Christine Flight 1995: Thanse 3 8 13 L Deiton 9-4 (N A Callegian) 7 ran

FORM GUIDE
FARAWAY LASS can overcome the steader of 10st 2th, Lord Hundington's filly has won two FARRAMAY LASS can overcome the steader or 1.0st zon. Lord Huzungdorts my new won wo to her last three, beating Sing Up a length and a ball to a 1.7 rulang integer state at Not-tingham and sconing by three lengths from Out Line at Salabuty a week ago. Almee Cook node her to good effect them and again stakes off 7th, to suggest that the penalty can be de-fied. Cheety Choppy is the danger if turning our order a penalty for the third time in four days. Due to run in the last race at Epsom's evening meeting yesterday, the finished fire lengths third to Blushing Grenedier at Windsor on Monday tollowing a locungram will now need to but has must (Christian Flight 16th of 19). Cheeky Chappy is again Birdy to act out the number which water and Brigantone has given no encouragement in two runs this year but might be suit-water and Brigantone has given no encouragement in two runs this year but might be suit-water and Brigantone has given no encouragement in two runs this year but might be suit-selection. MONAASSIB and should be spot on after two runs this season.

2.30 DUNSTON SELLING STAKES (CLASS 6) £3,000 added 270 6f Penaity Value £2,301

<i>63</i>	SENIOE SWINGS (13) (Corolin Regard) W Must 8 11
4	VICTORY AT HART (22) (A.) Philippi Campbell B 11
	CAYAR AND CANDY (13) (BF) (Herander MecGiberts); D Cosgove 8 6 1 Nowton (5) 6
	GRONEFAIR MAIDEN (43) (Growing Round Lat) 8 Moeten 8 6
2	RETOTO (18) (The Lifety Bunch) B McMath 8 5T Quien 4
	SHARKZWAKDZ (15) DAS Maron E Southood W Hoggs 86
-	-8 doctored -

The Eighth, 14-1 Stient Expression 1995: Soler Figut 3 8 8 R Hits 6-1 (B W Hits) 5 mm

FORM GUIDE FORM GUIDE

FORM SUBJECT SWINGS was stepping on inside the final furlong when third to Tinker's Surprise at Goodwood to suggest that an extra furlong would suit. The Goodwood form is working out well, with Tunner-up Fortry having won twice at Mussachungh since, and Senate Swings, a 12,000gma Timeless Times cost out of the sprinter Heaven-Liegh-Grey, should be good enough in this company, Cavilar Assi Casely, who holds Victory At Hart on course and distance numing behind Barriwood Crackers, was helf a length behind Senate Swings at Goodwood and there is no reason why he should been him today. Subjects and that offer in the betting eighth of ten behind Eye Shadows at Notinghem (5) on ner debut. A drifter in the betting, she was very green and will probably heed more than an extre furlong before we see the best of her. Grovedate Malabae was outclessed in Witching Hour's Salesbury melden on the referty white Resource covered no Match for Docklands Carriade at Thirsk but can in-

8	[3.00	HEMSBY STAKES (CLASS C) £7,650 added 7f Penalty Value £5,463
).	1	201206	BONNSTON AREY OF ON II David Abell M Johnston 793
	5	21.25(0	MONAASSEE (12) (C) Bladfourn Al Meldourn) E Dunlop 5 9 0
<u>.</u>	3	510-002	SELENT EXPRESSION (6) (D) (A S Reid) B Meeten 6 8 9
-	4	411	CORRESH SHOW (USA) (133) (D) (Shelin Mohammed) D Loder 3 8 8
f	5	116-520	APPLATIE BOUTH CLAS TALETAN Sui B HAS 3 8 6
_	6	11-00	BROGHISTONE (40) (CD) (Actual Poland) H Cock 3 8 6
	7	41110-0	MANNAL (ISA) (77) (D) (Hamdan A) Malaoum) R Amestong 3 8 6
ŀ			- 7 decimed -
		1.0 0407	Erroston Abber 2.1 Corolish Storm S.1 Brisheltone, R.1 Monard, S.1 Monardelli, ASI

The Eighth, 14-1 Stient Expression
1995: Soler Fight 3 8 8 R Hite 6-1 (8 W Hite) 5 ran
POINT GUIDE
Richard Hits was down to nide both Manural and MONAASSIR at the overnight stage and is on Manural for Robert Armstrong. The Einsternal coit, half-bother to Marcot, winner of the Queen Eizzbeth II Status for the stable, can probably be forgiven his poor run behind Stoom Trooper in the Felden Stakes over nine furiongs at Newmerket on his return. Manural galacter his trace wire as a juvenile at this distance, including an impressive Donasster win in September. But Monassib tools best. The five-year-old did really well to be a status second to the improving Targang on his Nesembler, truth and bounced back to that sort of form with an expellent ring it is environity plants, investing eighth of 29 to Emerging Market (Steen Eignementon 16th) without being gloop a healting eighth of 29 to Emerging Market (Steen Eignementon 16th) without being gloop a healting eighth of 29 to Emerging Market (Steen Eignementon 16th) without being gloop a healting eighth of 29 to Emerging Market (Steen and Commolies Art in the status of the Steen Eignementon 16th) without the status of the

3.30 RADIO NORFOLK HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,100 added filles 7f Penalty Value £3,761

1	315014	ZELDA ZONK (13) (D) (Mrs Crystme Parting) B Meetran 4 10 0
2	441015	PATSY GREATS (23) U K Gennes) J Moore 6 9 11
3		PRESE FRUIT DAILY (23) Diseas Hudson: P Kellenny 495
1	001000-	EUPRITUM COZO (D) (/ G Vaughani Bob Jones 4 9 1 M Owy 4
5	544-0	PRINCIA PRIVITAL (CAN) (13) E.S. & W.V. Robers) R. Amsseng 3 9 0M Hills 6
Б	4-0031	HEPPY (5) (C) (D Sed) C Broton 3 8 13 (Se)
7	223400	COLLEGE (MISHT (13) Date Cressine Durinest) C Dieger 480
		- 7 declared -

SETTING: 5-2 Hippy, 11-4 Zoldo Zonk, 7-2 Russha Shythus, 6-1 Patay Sidanos, 8-1 Front Freit Delly, 10-1 College Night, 20-1 Euphylin

1995: Cutpurse Mol 3 9 0 D Ha

The weather is going to have a big impact on this race. Although showers had tallen yester day afternoon, the ground was still considered tast and, provided that remains the case, HIPPY will take a lot of beating. One formain's felly sprang a 20-1 surprise in a mile condi-tions race here last week when beating Aethra and a host of other higher-rated mass two ooms (existence) seek whom man became results are seekly well and she can dely a fillo penalty.

Not surprisingly, the hendicapper has taken a dirt view of Hippy's improvement, raising her
16to from Seaurdey. Zeide Zeink had Hippy five and a half lengths behind in third when win-1.6th from Seturday, Zeide Zonik had Hippy five and a half length behind in turn when wining at fempton lest month but is 1.1th higher now, meeting her 6th woose. She are we'l
under a penelty to be fourth to Ahnuhmin at Newcastle on Saturday but has more to do
now and Ruspha Rhythan, severith at Newcastle on her reappearance, might well overturn
placings. If the rain does come, Patsy Grismes, a winner on the good to soft at Chepstow
last month, would have a leading chance. Fresh Prait Death should have benefited from her
Goodwood fifth to borism Dancer, while a first-time visor might bring about a return to form

2	1.00	CATFIELD CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £3 Penalty Value £2,571	,450 added 1.m
1	044221	PERSONS PURIST (10) (D) (The Sun Purises Club) W Mus 5 9 4	£ محلو و تـــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــ
2	0055-04	ACTION MCKSON (3) & G Lean) B McMath 491.	D Sweeney (7) 4
3	214.033	BLOCKADE (USA) (6) (CD) IA M Warrender) M Bell 790	
ĭ	\$384.V	STAR AND GARTER (33) (A E Opportuement G Wage 3 8 9	HHs2
-		and the state of the first papers of the configuration of the configurat	A Eddam IN E V

METTRIC: 8.4 Biochade, 2-1 Star And Earler, 3-1 Purilous Pfifit, 14-1 Coven Moon, 16-1 Action

FORM GUIDE

BLOCKADE is a specialist in this type of race and won the corresponding event last year. He has not been at his best so far this season, but his thirds to Scottish Park at Leicester and to Monument at Selisbury have been encouraging and he should be eithe to dominate this field. Star And Genter is the danger and, with her good padages, it is no surprise that the base been entered on the maximum claiming price. She had useful placed form in maidens at two and, elithough only right of 12 behind Almusitarek on her Kempton reappearance in a handicap, must be teared in this grade. Perilous Plight landed the odds a should recent at Museum within Australia. Selection: BLOCKADE tance.

4.30 HAPPISBURGH MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,100 added in 3f 101yds Penalty Value £3,960 Ratcheolf SN Day 8 0-3 ST ADELE (USA) (9) (Mrs Vingola Kraft Payson) D Loder 3 B 6...

BETTHON: 9-4 Lear Express., 7-2 Serenns, 4-1 Qualda, 9-2 St Admie, 10-1 Antorda Bie, 12-1 Biston Outburst, 14-1 Alisuza, 16-1 others 1995: Tirashaan 3 & 5 D Harrson 11-8 U R Farshaws! 7 Car

PORM GUIDE

QASIDA may not need to improve on her half-length second to Private Song at Bath to win this. Cave British's Lyclus fifty elmost certainly did not stay in the Queen's Vese last time (she did not, get much of a run either) and this looks a good opportunity. Lear Express will be well suited by time longer rine, having been fourth to Lakstine Legand at Neumarinet on his debut, finishing a place in front of better fancied stablemate Yings Academy. Serences, third to Male-Ans-Mou at Goodwood, and St Adelle, who filled the same position behind set Adult at Lingfield, will also appreciate the extra distance, while Astonia. Bits is a well-bred newcomer to keep an eye on.

Selection: QASIDA

5.00 HICKLING LADY RIDERS' HANDICAP (CLASS G) £3,000 added 1m 2f 21yds Penelty Value £2,364

| COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | COUNTY | C -9 doctored -

— 9 declared —
— Minimum weight: Set. Your handlish reight: News Soft Diamond Set 13th.

BETTING: 3-1 Princely Affair, 7-2 Squared Array, 4-1 Roman Ruel, 5-1 Bolles Sata Boy, 8-1 Don't Drop Bontes, 12-1 Ajdur, 14-1 Haves Soft Diamond, 16-1 others

1995: Bayen 4 10 13 Min M Couchey 7-4 (Lody Herites) 6 ran

PRINCELY AFFAIR is just a pound higher than when beating Compaire a length and a quar-PROFECELY AFFARE is just a pound higher than when beating Contrative a length and a quarter over course and detarnos less month and appeals following a decent section to Melitarnos at tinglised on Saunday. Microsel Beits gelding will be wall ridden by Arranda Perrett. The shorter trip and application of blinkers were given as the reason for Squared Away striking form at Redox (Im) less time, beating Mels Baby tell a length for today's rider. The hendicapper has been lenient in reising him just a pound and there must be every chance he can stay ten furiangs. Don't Drop Bounds, short-headed by Montons at Follostone on Friday, can again go well from the front off the same mark, write topweight Roman Read.

CALETHICK

2.15 Abstone Again 2.45 Great Oration 3.15 Perfect Gift 3.45 Oriel lad 4.45 its Academic 4.45

GOING: Good to soft (Good in places).

BUT Course is north-west of town on A6136. Durlington station 14m.

Lourse is north-west of town on A6136. Durlington station 14m.

Lourse St. 10 (male: 16s free into all enclosures). CAR PAER: mbers 52, remainder Free.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Where's Wally (2.16), Bargack (visused,

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: None.

LONG DESTANCE EINNIERS: Greg Galva (3.15) sent 235 sides from

B Hilly's Lombroum sable in Bettskirte; Young Prederick (3.46), Frend Inage (4.15) & Play The Time (4.45) sent 250 miles from E Bushe's Ginge stable m Onfordshire; Section Gift (3.15) sent 225 miles from Police withsteamed

stable in Onfordshire; Bleased Spirit (2.45) C Wall; Yound Lodge (4.15)

R Collingridge: Parrot's Bill (3.15) in Tomphine; Atlenna (3.15) S Williams

sent 301 miles from Newmarket in Suffall.

TREATY OF PARIS SELLING STAKES 2.15 (CLASS G) £3,000 added 210 5f

54540 ARSTONE ARAN (22) P Euro 8 11 _____ B Deficiel 2 V CAPTAIN FLRT A State 8 11 _____ B Buch 6 50 1 CAPT REMEMBER: (37 (87) P Suns 8 11 ____ J Fortune 3 TROPEE J Martin 8 11 ____ Date Gibeon 3 00 WHERE'S WIRLLY (16) J Bury 8 11 _____ Date Gibeon 3 Correll 4 8 6 A TRIBEST TOUCH (7) M (Story & 6 _______ C Traggles (5) 5
- 8 declared SETTING: 4-5 Abstance Again, 9-2 Where's Wally, 6-1 Trooks, 6-1 | Car'l Researcher, 39-1 Capital Flat, 20-1 Trooky Touch

2.45 TURMERIC HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,200 added 1m 71 177yds

rg an. BETTRI2: 7-4 Great Oration, 9-4 Combroat Kid, 5-1 Hauts Le Viste, 8-1 Little Redning, 19-1 lets, 14-1 Kuchena, 18-1 Yasimus, 29-1 others

3.15 RATING RELATED MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS F) £3,450 added 3YO 1m 5f 175yds

1 - 000 PARROY'S HELL (\$20 M Tompline 9 0 ...
2 600-643 VALIDY JUNI WALVES (\$27) J O'Neil 9 0 ...
3 03-005 ATTRICK (USA) (\$24) 5 Williams 8 11.
4 50-032 VALIDY JUNI ANAM, (\$9) B 1818 8 11.
5 00-62 PERMIST GIFT (\$4) P Date 8 11. - 5 decianed -BETTPRE S-4 Gray Salana, 6-4 Perfect SER, 9-2 Atlanta, 10-1 Partol's HEL,

3.45 AMERICAN REVOLUTION HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,100 added 310 7f 1-11605 MINSTAL MAX (LG (C) T Barron 97....

EET (1982: 7-2 Orio) Loui, 4-1 Krystel Max, 9-2 Shossed Spicit, 5-1 Main Baby, 8-1 Comic Feather, Mad's Contonen, Silver Welcome, 10-2 others 4.15 BATTLE OF BLANKER HILL LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,450 added 7f

HYPERION

8.50 Wire Act 720 Suave Star 7.50 Turia 8.20 Colway Rake 8.50 Wille Miles 9.20 The

nm	BROCTLENE GOLD (12) (D) Mrs M Resoley 5.9 3 A Calibrate 8
	BARRASH (27) (CD) P Brans 490 J Fortune 5 V
031	159AL 19SUE (26) (D) W Haigh 490
	PROUD BANGE (55) (D) (BF) X Burks 490 _S Whitworth 4 Y
	AMONYM (16) (D) (BF) D Nictols 48 11
	ISD ORY (16) (D) P Cabe; 5 8 11
	IT'S ACADEMIC (5) (CD) (EF) Mrs J Romeston 4 8 8 JK Fellon 7
-	-8 declared -

DETYPOR: 7-2 Describes Gold, 4-1 Yourall Lodge, 9-2 Kirl Ory, 5-1 Logal is

4.45 BOSTON TEA PARTY HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,200 added 3YO 6F 500-10 DESERT LYNK (43) (5) T Watson 9 7.

361-043 NATY-Q (7) P Calver 8 4... EET MD P Evens 83_

822241 LAUNDI (125 ID) D Esworth 5 10 0.

1-4 NAVAL GAZER (72) D Loder 3 9 5. 1-35 LADYMERK (42) J W Warts 3 9 4...

0-04 ALICIA (49) | Duniop 3 8 13.

SANONS TRIED AS ATA M Inhonton 4913

7.50 SCANIA 1996 FILLES HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,100 added 1m 3f 200yds

BETTER: 7-2 Naval Gazar, 4-1 Ladykirk, Yempirose, 9-2 Turia, 5-1 Lalig-di, 7-1 Alicia, 12-2 Stonalinet Elito.

8.20 FAMOUS GROUSE HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,100 added 6f

__W Conson 3

Ladder well backed

Salmon Ladder and Sheer Danzig attracted support for to-morrow's Royal Hong Kong 8-1 Sheer Danzig, 10-1 Skilling-Jockey Club Handicap at ton, Chief Burundi, Winter Ro-Sandown with Ladbrokes yes-

terday. The former, trained by Paul Cole, has been backed from 6-1 to 5-1 and the latter, handled by Robert Armstrong, was cut from 10's to 8-1. But William Hill still hold the two at 6-1 and 10-1 respectively.

Latest betting - Ladbrokes: mance, 12-1 Special Dawn, 14-1 Major Change, Pleasant Sur-prise, Silver Groom, Wilcuma, 16-1 bar. Special bet: 7-2 Missile (with a run) (from 4-1)

William Hill: 4-1 Yeast, 6-1 Salmon Ladder, 10-1 Chief Burundi, Sheer Danzig, Skillington, Winter Romance, 14-1 bar.

14-1. 15 rae. 100-30 fev Chieftein's Crown nt, 144. (C Horgan, Wokingham). Tota: £5.70; £3.10, £3.50, £4.90. Duel Forecast

namet 678 30 Standard 515 40 Place 6: £58.67. Place 5: £44.65.

MARKET RASEN

10 mm, 27, 9. (\$ Bell), Tota: £11.30; £2.20, £1.40, £2.50, Dust Forecast: £11.60, Com-

puner Straight Forecast: £41.94. Tricust: £274.53. This: £135.10.

2. Dayingty 2-1 fax; 3. Backsoner Bay 14-1. 10 ran, 3½, 27. () McConnochie,). Total £10.20: £1.60, £1.40, £2.40. Dual Foretast. £12.50. CSF: £28.06. Tricast: £242.39. Trick

297.00.
3.10: 1. MORDIC SUN (M Dwyer) 11-2;
2. Chambal Partitude 7-2 far; 3. Bitancrack
8-1. 8 ran. 7, 45. (L Ucyd-Jernes). Totar
£7.60; £3.10, £1.80, £1.40. Dad Forecast
£13.80. Computer Straight Forecast: £23.78.
Tricket: £13.07.4.

far; 2. See God 6-1; 3. Ety Rection 20-1. 15 me. 5-2. It fav Ricers . 1%, 6. () White). Tota: £4.70; £1.80, £1.40, £5.90. Dual Fore-

cast: £10.50. Computer Straight Forecast: £20.03. Tota Trio: £88.20. Non Runner. LENCEY. ... 4.10: 1. FRHOSSELI BAY (P. Niveri) 13-8 feu;

2. The Toester 9-2; 3. Noblety 5-1; 7 rea. hd, 10. (Mrs M Reveley). Total: £2.70; £1.60, £2.00. Duai Forecast: £4.30. Computer

ARSSTO IR Durwood & 5-2 Jt

Tocast £139.74

2.10: 1. RED JAM JAR (G Cahil) 11-1; 2.

RACING RESULTS

£209.80.

CATTERICK

2.20: 1. BLUE BOMBER () Forume) 2-1 fay; 2. Sease of Priority 4-1; 3. Best Kept Secret 7-1. 9 ran. 1½, 1¼, († Berran, Thisk). Tole: £3.40; £1.90, £1.80, £1.20. Dual Fore-£9.81. This: £11.30. There was no bid for the

2.50: 1. BOLLIN DOROTHY (M Birth) 11-8; 2. Crez Santin 25-1; 3. Divine 10-11 Stv. 8 mm. 2; 2. (T Essishy, Neston). Tothe £2.90; £1.40,£5.20,£1.00. Dual Forecast.£32.80, CSF: £29.93.Tric: £15.90. Non Runner: No

oblem Jac. 3,20: 1. PHARLY DANCER (L Newson) 5-2; 2. Michraic 8-1; 3. Nosey Native 6-1 11 res. 2-1 fev Cros Telk. 5, hd. (W Haigh, Matorit, Tote: £3.50; £1.90, £2.20, £2.40, Dust Forecast: £16.80. CSF: £23.99. Tric:

Hadley.
3,50: 1. NäNETY-FIVE (K Fallon) 9-4; 2. Chiles Hand 8-1: 3. Doesbie Glow 25-1. 5 cm., 5, 24. U FiziGerad, Matern). Total: £1.80; £1.30, £2.10. Dual Forecast: £3.00, £87: £8.88. NF. Swen / A Wastley. Swon At Whatley (2-10) was withdrawn while not under ordes. Rule 4 applied to all bets, deduction 30p in the nound. 4.20: 1. GRATE TIMES (K Fellon) 8-1; 2. Mystic Circle 5-2 Jr fav; 3. Fency A For 14-1. 10 ran. 5-2 Jr fav Falls O'Moness.

*65. 2,44 nes, Levburn), Totac £5.20; £1.30. 12.00, £2.80. Dual Forecast: £8.00. CSF: £31.06. Tho: £197.70 (part won, pool of £222.61 carried forward to Camerick 4.45 tothe Wanter 11-1: 3. Phon Haze 9-2. 10 ran. 5-2 tav Alzotic (6th). 6,

£2.60, £2.80, £2.00. Dual Forecast. £31.90. CSP: £47.65. Tricest: £199.10. Tric: £28.30. Inclinet: £1,394.80. Pincapot: £23.30. Quadpot: £10.60. Place 8: £42.08, Place 8: £26.93.

21/2. (M. Johnston, Middleham), Tota: £4.70;

FOLKESTONE

2.30: 1. HEN HARRIER (T Sproke) 7-2; 2. Song Mist 4-1; 3. Dayville 3-1 (av. 11 han. sht.hd, 7. (J Dunlop, Arunde). Totac £3.80; £1.20, £1.90, £1.80. Dual Forecast: £6.40. CSF: £17.27. Tno: £3.50. 3.00; 1. STAR OF GOLD (Paul Edder) 6-1; 2. Supphire See 7-1; 2. Rubblyati 8-1. 11 ras. 100-30 fav Mr Cube (5th). 3-6, 1. (C Egenon, Chaddleworth). Total: £11.00; £3.10, £1.90, £2.20. Oual Forecast: £15.50.

CSF, £45.05. Vircast: £316.84, Tric: £49.60. 3.30: 1. LETRIM LODGE (S Drowne) 15-8 fax: 2. Windhorn 2-1; 3. Emme's Rick 10-1. 5 rsa. 5, 19a. (N Cellaghan, Newtyarket). Tota: £2.60; £3.00, £1.10. Duel Forecast 1. 5 real 5, 1%, (N Coll. £3.10, CSF; £6.22. 4.00: 1, HAL HOO YAROOM (T Sprake) 9-

4; 2. Inflaence Pedier 4-5 far; 3. Mighty Phantom 9-2. 5 ran. 4, 12. Major W Hern, Lambourn). Tota: £3.10; £1.10, £1.10. DF: £1.50. CSF: £4.38. 4.30: 1. ManhitSAM (T Speke) 6-1; 2. Sa-cred Mirror 4-1; 3. Seven Crowns 11-1. 9 rate. 3-1 fev Demerita . 3, 3. U Duntop, Ann-dell. Tota: £8.20; £3.00, £1.20, £3.30. Dual

Forecast: £18.80, CSF: £28.94, Trossec £234.43, Trio: £35.20.

2. Clean Erige 9-1; 3. Positical Panto 2-1 fav. 9 ran. 5, 9. (K Bedey). Total EA-90; £2.50, £4.20, £1.40. Dual Forecast £15.20. Computer Straight Forecast: £34.42.Thos: £30.90, After a stewards' inquiry, the result Place St. £38.22. Place 5: £14.82. Evening results, page 20



6.35 Brave Montgomerie 7.05 Shontaine 7.35 Desert Froilc 8.05 Society Girl 8.35 Tarneem 9.05 Silk Cottage GOENG: Good.

STALLS: Straight course - stands' side; round course - inside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.

Left-hand galloping course.

Rececourse is east of town on the A768. Ayr rail station (service from Ghaspow) are rolls sway. ADMISSION: Club 512; Grandstand 57 (OAPs helf-pdce). CAR PARK: Free.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Silent Guest (8.05), Nordisk Legend & River Garnock (9.05), Veshoz Lady (viscend, 8.05).
WINNESS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATE: Cralgasira (7.05) & Desert Profit (7.95) both won at Carlisie on Thursday, Swara At Whalley (Ayr 9.05) won at Musselburgh on Tuesday.
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNIESS: Minsheer (8.25) has been sent 406 rules by Miss Gay Kelleway from Whitcombe, Donnét.

6.35 D) £5,000 added 270 7f SRAYE ACT Ser Mark Proceeds 9 0 _____ & Dustrials 5 2 ERRAYE MONTEGRAFIEE (12) Mass L Persett 9 0 M / O'Common USHEER Mass Gay Kellevery 9 0 30204

; D	·	Photon	& decises	d - _			_
		Brake Act, 7-2	United 4	7 grave i	No. of London	m, 1 4 1 1	-
耜	1005 9-4	Brake Act, 7-2 of Kond Expres	18.1 Cast	- الترويي			
des	st, 8-1 Hot	& Mid Ethas			٠.		-
i	٠.		-				_
		SCANIA 4 ICAP (CLA	ecotes 1	HORSE	POWER	HAN	ų
	775	SCAMA 4		200	added :	3YD 7	ŧ.
П	UU	ICAP (CL4	155 E) 2	ومالتمون			
<u>-</u> -		CRUEINEN (2 I Romy 9 9	(694)		200 B (2	"
1	522-001	CRUCIWEN (ک در والنجاز روا کا کا جداد جمعه	97	₩J	(Cotto)	27
2	LG-COO	DUD MASIEK				المتالين :	13
3	ua.u			-043			
4	n_4/003	SECULTABLE IN	Ol in Trialment			3 capacit	7
Īš	00-2000	SHONTARE (*) POLISH SAGA NAPOLEON'S !	(SE) W DODS		A House	7 12	٠
ě	n30012	WANTER AS A	Girtes for a	- ,	Security Florid	esa (7) 8	t i
۵.	44	ORIOLE (13) N				مادار د	- 1
	******	ODIOLE (13) N	Teltier 7 11.				ú
7	(ILLUST)	CRICLE (13) N	N Bycant 7 1	D	ينز ويهيس	100. july	7
8	354000	ROCKY STREET	u (15) R Whi	alex 710		-	1
9	(1)(150		D Mary P Com			The state of	
10	004060	ME Man (10 declars	d			

n weight: 7st 10th, True handloop weight: Elipedie 7st life, Rocky Streem research for the first of the f 7.35 SCANSA 1998 TRUCK OF THE YEAR HANDICAP (CLASS D) £8,000 added 1m

040/36-6 HOME COUNTIES (34) (C) D Mother 7 9 10...

RETTRACE 6-4	gir: 7s; 10b. True handizap walghi: Northern Miloto 7s; 75. Decept Freilio, 7-2 Cheerful Aspect, 4-1 Lord Admicala, 7- idies, 8-1 Bedahelle, 12-1 Northern Motto.
0.00	SCANIA CLARATING STAKES (CLASS E) £4,200 added 3YO 1m 2f
1 250144 2 6	SOCIETY GIRL (7) C Thomson 9 2 Down McKeown 5 THE GODFELLOW (20) N Bycoot 9 1 P Suberte (6) 1 ANOTHER PICES (202) N Thister 8 9 C Charmock 6
3 000- 4 000-000 5 00-0040 8 54-0	WESTIGN OF THE PROPERTY OF T
	- 6 sectored -
For A Class,	Society City, 3-1 Short Speed, 9-2 Yeshen Lady, 5-1 Time 10-1 Another Plens, 12-1 The Oddfellow.
8.35	LOGANSWELL MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,100 added 1m
2 . 52	BARBARK'S SHEL (632) A Bailty 4 9 7 Yeloute 7 1960117 HeL (31) R Coops 4 9 7 1 Channock 2 197045 MANY ID Noting 6 9 7 5 Doorse (3) 2
4 2-22 - As	SHARRING (SD) (BIT) E Durlop 4 9 7
6 004	MORDIC GIFT (FIEI) (12) MS I) INDISCO 38 12
	INCOMPRESENTATION (827) Damps Scriet 3 8 12
g	SERIOUS SERSADION Sir Mark Prescot 3.8 22
	TARRIEDM (LA) (SP) M Stocks 3 8 7
12-1 Knotty	Na., 26-1 Mondic Gift, Respecting, 33-1 others.
9.05	SCAMA 4-SERIES TING OF THE ROAD HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,500 added 5f
	RENTHANCE DANCER (279) (D) D Molan 8 10 0 S Dromes (3) 3
9 803000	SMINN AT WHILLEY (2) (3) Manyo Wane 4 9 12 (7ex)
4 0-00352 5 000003	SEX COVINCE (B) R Whiteler 4 8 13 Deen Mickeens 7 RICH GLOW (13) (CD) N Bucot 5 8 12
	RANGER SHARROCK (LLT) (C) D Nictions 485
3 000660	BUE WISHIA SI N Brook 47 10 A Markey 1
6 0000	MORDESK 1260 PD (45) Mas D Teamen 4 7 10
ما خنسات	to Tel 1/th Total hardens and the Annibur Alichanus. In Ch.

8.05 SCANIA CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS E) \$4,200 added 370 1m 2f 1 250144 SOCIETY SIBL (1) C Thorson 9 2	DRAW ADVANTAGE: High best for 61. Almost the, own course; sanight 6f course. Recovering in near junction of the A580 and M6. Newton reflected two miles sensy, advising the County Stand 114; Tamessells station two miles sensy, advising the County Stand 114; Tamessells 53; Newton Stand 53.50 (CAP half-price in Taitersalls and Newton Stand). GAE PARK: Proc. BLOWERED PIRST TIME: Flag Fen & Tiler (8.20).
Denne Motieft (5) 2 25 TIME: 5-4 Seciety Site; 3-1 Shant Great, 9-2 Venica Lady, 8-1 Time For A Glass, 10-1 Another Floss, 12-1 The Oddfellow, 10-1 Another Floss, 12-1 The Oddfellow, 10-2 Another Floss, 12-1 The Oddfellow, 10-3 LOGANSWELL MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,100 added 1m	WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None, LONG-DESTANCE EINMERS: Alicia (7.50), Nilgiri Hills (8.30), Salacman (8.50) & The Swam (9.20) have been sent 238 miles by J Dunlyo from Archiel, West Sasses; July West (7.20), Laibail (7.50) & Redekth Lady (8.50) have been sent 228 miles by D Elsworth from Whitcombe, Dorset.
1 064 BARRARIS SENS (632) A Balley 4 9 7 Notates 7 2 52 HANRIST HELL (332) R Cange 4 9 7 L Characost 3 3 SENAN BAN D Nolan 6 9 7 S Desayse (3) 2 4 2-22 BARRARIST (20) (815) E Durkoy 4 9 7 K Fallow 9 5 0-6 SHANDORS (5) F WARSON 4 9 7 C Tengto (3) 6 004 MORRISC SETT (010) (22) Mis D Thomason 3 8 12 Desays Modifield (3) 8 7 50 MESPECTINO (827) Danys Swist 3 8 12 Desays Modified (4)	6.50 CLYNOL APPRENTICES' HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,200 added 77 30yds 1 1.00300 BEST OF ALL (12) 1 Berry 4 10 0 C Lowbur (5) 9 2 531362 MY GALLEN (7) (7) A Berry 5 9 9 College (3) 5 3 500016 SEERZ (19) N Tinkin 4 9 8 In Human (3) 6 4 000014 WRIER SCOUT (8) C Brooks 8 9 7 S Copp 1 8
8 044 SARRONK (159) M. Jones 3 8 12 P. Bobleson 5 9 SENGLISS SENSACION ST Mark Protect 3 8 12 B. Darfield 30 10 522-602 DARGESH (1-6) (NF) M. Stocks 3 8 7 W. J. O'Casson 4 -10 declared - BETTIME: 8-4 Tarroners, 7-4 Markets, 8-1 Sarrons, 8-1 Sarroners Samuellon,	5 3-00102 SPANISH STEPS (25) M W Extently 4 9 5 A Panish 11 8 0 050321 WINE ACT 201 Narryn Nasco 2 8 13 Claire Angal (7) 8 7 055404 ANAMONIC (344) 8 Marry 5 8 10 6 Member 5, 13 8 310031 SEA, SPOUSE (26) (0) M Biochmot 5 8 5 C Adminior 22 9 3220-00 MARIC LARS (15) E Alson 3 8 2 loom Wignots 10 10 000130 PERCY NARROT (14) R Winterier 4 8 1 P Fresholds (6) 7 12 5000-00 ROYAL COMEDIAN (16) (0) 8 Marry 7 7 13
12-1 knotty Hz, 25-1 klords GE, Respecting, 33-1 others. 9.05 SCANIA 4-SERIES KING OF THE ROAD' HANDICAP (CLASS-E) 54,500 added 5f	12 5-00305 HILL PROOF NATIFE (88) W Besterume 5 7 10
2 002221 SHAWAT WINNELLEY (20 ED) Margor Whose 4 9 12 (704)	BETTING: 8-2 Wire Act, 5-1 Winter Scoot, 11-2 Spanish Skeps, 6-1 My Buillery, Son Spouss, 8-1 Boot of AL, 9-1 Mostrang, 10-1 others.
4 0.00352 SEX COTTAGE (B) R Whitelet 4 9 13 Deen McKeener 7 000003 RESE GLOW (13) (CD) N Bycol 5 8 12 K Relian 6 0 000105 RESER GARBOOK (17) (C) D Nichols 4 8 5 G Dolfseld 4 8 7 D00400 ANOTHER NIGHT MARKE (2) (D) R Notetac 4 7 10	7.20 SCANIA 4-SERIES HORSEPOWER' SELL- ING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,450 added 240 67
B 000850 BLUE LIBANA (S) N Byeroft 47 50. A Mackay 1 9 6-0000 Monthlys Leading (S) As D Transion 47 30. Descript Model (S) 9 B	2 103632 FULL TRACEARM (17 (10)) Berry 8 11
Allimon websic 7st 10th. That tending regist Another Alignmene 7st 6th, a Bluene 7st 4th, Hordali Legard 7st 3th. Birliffeld 94 Anothe 14 Red Store, 94 2 Still College, 74 Bluytanic Denois, 8-1 Mar Carrock, 12-1 Another Mightness, 20-1 Bluy Legion, 25-1 Martist Legion.	8 0046 WCIORA'S DREAM (5) M Cleanor) 86

Swan
GOING: Good (Good to Sot in places). STALLS: 71—Inside; 65 & 1 ndf outside; 1m6f — centre. DRAW ADVANTAGE: High best for 61. Almost (list, ovel course; scraight of course. Respectors is near junction of the A580 and M6. Newton radiation two miles away. ADMISSEQUE Coursy Stand 114; This essais 55; Newton Stand 53.55 (CAPV half-price in Tatlessalls and Newton Stand). CAE PARE: Pree. BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Fing Fem & Title: (8.20). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: None. LONG-DESTANCE ETINNERS: Aliels (7.50), Nilgiri Hills (8.20), Salesman (8.50) & The Swam (9.20) have been sent 238 miles by J Dunky Fran Artalel, West Susser, July Wes (7.20), Leibnil (7.50) white the market of the Waltcombe, Dorse.
6.50 CLYNOL APPRENTICES' HANDICAP
Francia (ortigo el sulson uman ti onlino
1 1-00300 BEST OF ALL (12) Bury 4 10 0
2 (31362 MY GALLERY (7) (D) A Biolog 5 9 9
3 500016 SEESAZ (19) N Tinkits 4 9 8 Je Hanner (3) 6
A NYVIA WHITER SCOUT ON C Brooks 897
5 300002 SPANISH STEPS (35) M W Extenty 495 @ Parish \$1 8
8 NECCOL WIRE ACT (20) Names Misade 3 8 13 Claim Annual (7) 8
7 (55404- MATERINEI (544) B Murray 5 8 10
8 310031 SEA SPOUSE (20) (D) M Blooterd 5 8 5 C Administr 12 9 3220.00 MARIE LAKE (15) E Aksto 3 8 2 Jose Wands 10
10 000130 PERCY PARROT (24) R WHITNEY 48 1 PRESENCE (9) (
TO SECOND MATTER COMMENTAL (ASS AND SECOND SECOND (7) 4
12 5.00305 (#EL PROM NATIE (#%) W Bishouse 5 7 10
Amaid @ 3
13 50040 BNLARD LADY (S) (C) J Yesimesht 4 7 10
Markeum weight: 7st 10th. True handisap weight: Bellard Lady 7st 8th.
NOTITING: 9-2 Wine Act. 5-1 Winter Scoot, 11-2 Spools Steps, 6-1 My
Railory, Son Spouse, 8-1 Best of Al, 9-1 Messand, 10-1 others.
7.20 SCANIA 4-SERIES HORSEPOWER' SELL- ING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,450 added 240
ING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,450 added 240
67
2 103572 RELITERATED TO BROWN 11 Carra 8
4 35 MIYWOO (Z3) D Sworth 8 6
5 · 0 104FUL 10Y (16) 8 Bases 86
7 mm mm mm m m m m m m m m m m m m m m

	1 340003 TREE (6) (D) M Johnston 4 9 13
	1 340003 TREE (5) (D) M Johnston 4 9 13
	S A CANDA PRESIDENTIAL AND MICH. PALE PALE AND
•	Date 074eH (3) 4 B
Hills (8.20).	4 001213 ALMAST (19) (D) C Well 493
38 miles in	4 OCC213 ALMASI (19) (5) C Well 493 White 592 At Companies 18 5 0,00405 COLWAY RWE (23) (0) W West 592 At Companies 18
200 Maries by Marie (7.50)	6 (1772) 6-420-424644 (5) (b) 1/ (146-60-60-5-2-7 (164-6-7-7-7-7-7-7-7-7-7-7-7-7-7-7-7-7-7-7
strock from	F (pech (2) 5
क्ष्यक सर्वा।	7 0530-24 80LD STREET (2) (CD) A Balloy 6 9 0
	8 004000 FLAG FEN (27) Martin Meade 5 8 8
	9 005260 MMD O'CANONE (37) (D) M. W. Ensterby 5.8 6
NDICAP	- 9 declared ~
)vds	RETTING: 3-15 Harry, 7-2 Tilor, 9-2 Alasaci, 5-1 Bold Street, 6-1 Maid
•	O'Counio, S-1 Colony Ruba, 18-1 Might Miss, 18-1 others.
Louther (5) 9	A description of a second second section and second
]
Metter (3) 5	DEAT HAYDOCK COMMERCIALS FOR SCANIA
iusatu n (3) 6	8.50 HAYDOCK COMMERCIALS FOR SCANIA MADEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,100
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1 Many, 25-1 Gold Links

Graf pattern looks ominous for Date Martina Navratilova. who knows a McNeil were serve and soilles. Guy Hodgson looks forward to the South Dook because she was out of the top 100 At 77 in the world she Martina Navratilova. who knows a McNeil were serve and soilles. Guy Hodgson looks forward to the South Dook because she was out of the top 100 At 77 in the world she Martina Navratilova. who knows a McNeil were serve and soilles. Guy Hodgson looks forward to the South Dook because she was out of the top 100 At 77 in the world she Martina Navratilova. who knows a McNeil were serve and soilles. Guy Hodgson looks forward to the South Dook because she was out of the top 100 At 77 in the world she McNeil were serve and soilles.

thing or two about Wimbledon titles, summed up what it will take to win the women's singles. "You have to hope you are at the very top of your game, "she said, "and that Steffi Graf is average."

Some hope. It has happened twice at the All England Club since the German turned 19 and if you are looking for similarities in her aberrations there is one: both of her defeats were against black Americans.

Unfortunately for Kimiko Date, who attempts to halt the most irresistible force in grass court tennis today in the semifinals, she fails to meet the criteria on two counts. Further

va. who knows a McNeil were serve and volleyers while the 25-year-old Japanese is barely big enough to see over the net. She sticks to the baseline like the paint.

Date, a semi-finalist at the Australian Open two years ago, claims to be 5ft 4in, although she appears smaller. Her game is like that of a pet dog; she will fetch all day in the hope her opponent will get dispirited.
"I'm shorter than the other

players," the 12th seed said. and I'm lacking in power. My strategy is to put pressure on my opponents with my returning game." In other words, she waits until the woman on the other side of the net makes a women's singles semi-finals

one else to provide Date with her diet of errors but, notwithstanding a head-to-head record of 6-1 in the six-time champion's favour, the omens are not entirely unfavourable for an upset. Their last meeting, for example, went in the underdog's favour, 7-6, 3-6, 12-10, in the Federation Cup earlier this

"She stays really low," Graf said of her semi-final opponent. "She keeps the ball low and she likes it if somebody plays fast and she can use the power of the opponent." And a weakness? "Her

Graf is less likely than any- first serve maybe is not as strong (King) in 1963. as it needs to be on grass."

Mary Pierce, who lost to Date in the quarter-finals, concurs. "Kimiko just plays," she said, damning with faint praise. "She's difficult because she brings a lot of balls back and doesn't make any mistakes. But she doesn't do anything special." Safe to say, it will be some surprise if Graf loses today.

Nothing special could have summed up Meredith Mc-Grath's career prior to this year, to an extent that she failed to make it to the Women's Tennis Association media hand-

would be the first unsecded player to reach the women's final since Billie Jean Moffit

McGrath, whose win at Edgbaston Priory last month testifies to her prowess on grass, would confound the norm in more ways than one if she beats the fourth seed, Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, today. An American who prefers to live in Europe - Switzerland - she does not have the usual almost parent-child relationship with a coach - for most of the time she

does not have a coach all. The 25-year-old from Michigan consulted a coach, Urs ing into playing Arantsa. I don't Walter, earlier this year but at know why, but I feel good."

for practice partners. Five have filled in so far, including Jana Novotna. As she puts it, if someone had told her at the start of the tournament she would last longer than Novotna, "I would have laughed".

No one is laughing now, least of all Sanchez Vicario, who had a less comfortable time disposing of McGrath 6-3, 6-4 in the quarter-finals at Amelia Island this year than the scoreline suggests. "It was a pretty close match." McGrath recalled. "I felt I had a lot of chances in that match and couldn't take advantage of them. I feel good go-

Photograph: David Ashdown

Henrie le Roux, the Transvael centre has been ruled out of the South African

tour to Australia and New Zealand be-cause of whiplash injuries sustained in Tuesday's 43-18 defeat of Fiji in Pre-

Tuesday's 43-18 defeat of Fiji in Pre-toria. Le Roux's place in the squad of 26 will go to the Fee State centre, Bren-don Venter, who was a member of South Africa's victorious squad at last year's World Cup. Fullback Andre Joubert, who suffered a hamstring injury in the match against Fiji, has been given a clean bill of health, while wing Pieter Hendriks has recovered from a bout of gastinc flu and will also fly with the team today.

THIRD STUDENT RUGBY WORLD CUP (Pre-toria) Pool A: France 44 Japan 9, Pool 8: Argentina 38 Wales 8.

Jackie MacGillivary's Sussex Challenge for the 1997/8 Whithread Race was still

low attendance

All Emphrid Chart stem ma worked by the decline in

paying guests.
Attendances in the first week of the championships weet of the Championships were tween 9,800 down on 1993, sitting the Windledon did have to Compete with have by fewer. The growth have dropped against this week and if the tread contains the total attendance will be the owest for six years.

Christopher Gorringe, chief executive of the chief, said. The fact that aftendences are only 45 per tent down on near record brok of last year is heart limit. It caing expecially when con-indexing the effects of factors. Visited such as the adverse weath cr, two tube strikes, the car-

ing trouble at players and Euro 96. Tracting spectators Rain may have been a this year but the dampent for the majority of

characters for the majority of personning's fams, but not for the majority of personning's fams, but not for the majority of a solid to afford characters and watch the majority of the hours in the Characters and Funnas bar, despite training a facility prices sanging to the Characters and the characters of the charact



McGrath the high climber

Mezedith McGrath should find it easy clambouring over Aranba Sanchez Vicario and into the licial of the lackes simples after recently scaling Africa's highest peak, Mount Kilimanjaro - all 19,340 feet of it.

McGrath, from Michigan, who will become the fifth unseeded woman to reach the ladies final if she beats the Spaniard also lists her hobbies

as skring and mountain biking. "Climbing Mount Kiliman-

17 KRAJICE

the view was specia ommend that vacation to any-

McCratti use inde Kaleran-jero stringuized the has found it offices to first apprecia par-ner this well. Die lies practised with the different plantiers before each of her matches at. Wimbledon. Before the first resund it was

Olga Lugina, then Jana Novot-na, Marianne Werdel Witmey-er, Ai Sugivana, and lastly jano was a wild experience, "she Judith Weisser before her quarsaid. "We reached the summit ter final victory over Katrina

1 GRAF

12 H DATE

13 M PIERCI

4 SANCHEZ

McGRATH

Stafft Ora

out of the shadows The 56-year-old singer de- British tennis has been shaken lighted the Wimbledon crowd from its torpor since the 21who had paid £42 for Centre year-old Henman progressed to Sir Cliff Richard. Court tickets - by opening with the last eight of the All-England

Sing-a-long Cliff steps

singer with an ear for a bass line and an eve for a baseliner. brought a ray of sunshine straight from Summer Holiday" to a rain-drenched Centre

Court vesterday afternoon. Sir Cliff, in the Royal Box to watch Tim Henman's quarter-finot match with the No 13 seed Todd Martin, treated dispirited spectators - who had seen only 20 minutes of Pete Sampras's match against Richard Krajicek before showers stopped play to an impromptu concert.

the veteran pop The Shadows' hit from the Championships. eponymous 1963 film, explaining "it might help brighten the

weather". He went on to sing a cappella versions of "The Young Ones" and "Bachelor Boy", and was backed up by five former Wimbledon champions - Martina Navratilova, Virginia Wade, Conchita Martinez, Pam Shriver and Gigi Fernandez. "Tve just formed a new group: Cliff and the Supremes," he grinned.

Cliff continued with Elvis Presley's "All Shook Up", aped and play resumed. propriate in the circumstances:

"I have to say this is the mos

unusual experience of my career

Singing in the rain: Sir Cliff Richard is accompanied by former Wimbledon champions including (left) Pam Shriver, Martina Navratilova, Gigi Fernandez and (far left) Virginia

- I never thought I would play the Centre Court," Cliff said. He finished off with "Livin" Doll" and "Congratulations" which prompted an outbreak of dancing in the crowd and watching celebrities, such as Joanna Lumley of Absolutely Fabulous fame, to join in the

merriment. The concert, the first ever on the Centre Court, lasted 30 minutes before the rain relent-



No hand for Luke Athletics

The difference between winning and losing was never more amply illustrated than by a forlorn figure walking along the Wimbledon concourse yesterday.

While Tim Henman was mobbed on his way to the practice court in preparation for his quarter-final against Todd Martin, one of the Britons he beat on his run to the last eight, Luke Milligan, is still suffering with a somewhat lower profile.

Milligan, who lost in the third round to Henman, walked around the All-England Club grounds unrecognised by the Wimbledon public.



Today's completed | results

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Getting there

Order of play Weather outlook Booking tickets for '97

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Dial the above number from a handse linked to a fax machine and choose

Knockout chart

Order of play

Visitor info

He had no reason to be unhappy with his performance at the tournament, although those same spectators who ignored him might well have been disappointed to find that at the end of a day of constant rain breaks. there was to be no refund.

Even the small amount of play possible was enough to rule out compensation for tickets, which cost £42 for Centre Court. Holders of Centre, No 1 Court and Court Two tickets are only entitled to compensation if no play is possible. Ticket holders are then given priority for a similar seat at next year's Championships.

Wimbledon's rules were not always that accommodating. In previous years, fans were not eligible for a refund even if play was completely wiped out. Some might think that a fault

in the service, something the Kimiko Date knows a lot about. The women's singles quarter-finalist is the queen of the double fault in the tournament. Date, who plays Steffi Graf in today's semi-final, has served 23 double faults, more than double that of her German opponent.

"I know my service is not in good shape. I'm shorter than the other players and also I'm lacking in power but my strategy is to use my returning game to win the point," the Japanese 12th seed said. "My service is getting better and better so against Graf I'll try to play my returning game to put the pressure on

John McEnroe, back at Wimbledon as a television commentator these days, admitted that the sight of so many seeds tumbling out of the men's singles has aroused his competitive instincts, even at the age of 37. Visions of a comeback, though, were forgotten after a stroll around the outside courts. "There's probably junior players out there who could beat me now," he said.

SPORTING DIGEST Pools dividends LTILEMOODS: Treble chance: 24pts (max) 1:1,254,238, 22 £780.35, 20 £12.00. Four draws £1.68,20, 10 beames £138,20, 5ts arrays £1.30. Euro 90:17pts £2,048.00, 18 £372.25, 15 £9.25, Final four pool Casth Rep beam No 3, England No 5, Hance No 6, Germary No 7, All correct forecast £521.50. England v Socition Spread-Yous-Bath pool Eight correct none; Seven correct £107.65.

ATRIGUTACE

RUSSIAN CHAMPIONSHIP MEETING (St Petersburg) Leading postions: Men: 400er 1
D Nosov 45.67ser, 21 Zhaou 46.04; 3 M Vidom 46.32, Hanguer, 1 V Promonizor 00.46m; 2
1 Konovalov 79.46; 3 V Sidorenko 76.82, 3,000en steeple chaese 1 V Promin 8 minutes 21.99sec; 2 V Golyas 8:22.82; 3 A Gorbunov 65.21sec; 2 V Kulikova 51.42; 3 O Kotharoko 51.21sec; 2 V Kulikova 51.42; 3 O Kotharoko 51.21sec; 2 V Kulikova 51.42; 3 O Kotharoko 51.21sec; 2 V Golyas Russian 3 Treshetnikova 12.93, 400en berdileas 1 M Porromayova 55.04ser 2 A Konzut 55.26; 3 O Nezarova 55.04ser 2 A Konzut 55.26; 3 O Nezarova 59ser; 2Y Graudyn 12.85; 3 T Reshetrik 93. 400an herdiles: 1 M Ponomay 04sec; 2 A Knoroz 55.26; 3 O Nazar 175. Heptarthilon: 1 S Moskatels 6.211 / Lebedenko 6.143; 3 I Tyukhai 6.081.

SHESGRUZUM
AMERICAN LEAGUE: Cleveland 3 Kansas City
2; Mawalwe 2 Denot 1 (7.1 Junings); New York
Yankesa 7 Boston 5; Bathrone 8 Tomoto 2; Chicago White Sox 7 Minnesota 4; Casiforna 6
Texas 5; Qakland 11. Seattle 6.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: San Francisco 5 Colorado 1: Mortena 5 Atlanta 1: Philadelphia 3 New York Mets 2: Chucago Cubs 15 Passburgh 7; Hous-ton 4 Fonda 3 (12 Innings); St Louis 4 Cincin-nato 3; Los Angeles 7 San Dego 3.

Cleave Lewis, who helped Worthing Bears to three successive play-off titles, is returning to the Budweiser League club as their new player-coach. The Ameri-can point-guard replaces Coin Irish, who has joined the French First Division club Cholet after just one year in charge.

Basketball

Scotland and Ireland dominated yes-terday's British Championships finals in Northern Ireland, with the Scots taking three of the five titles on offer and ire-

three of the five titles on offer and Ire-land claiming the other two.

BRTISH (HAMPIONEMPS (Lister Transport Club., Jordenetown, Co Austin, unless stat-ed) Pinster Jamior singles: M Bain (Soo) bt M Stewart (In) 21-16. Tripless Scotland (C Pash-mond, J Fleming and G Hood) bt England (A Wils, S. Jones and A Allocot), 15-14. (Cammon (Engl 21-13. Pelass Scotland II Robertson and A Allon), bt England (M Biggs and S Warren) (24-12. Flowas-lestend II Stuart, I Caldwell, D Hill and S Morar) bt Wales (P John, P Howels, R Fashurst and G Jones) 24-6.

Telford's Richie Woodhall has called off his quest to win the World Boxing Coun-cil middleweight title in Las Vegas later this month, Woodhall had been due to meet the defending champion, Keith

meet the defending champion, Keith Holmes, on 13 July, but the Midlander has now postponed the fight because of a dispute with the American promoter Don King, King had wanted Woodhall to sign a contract that would have given him options on the former European champion's next four fights if he had beaten Holmes but Woodhall was unwilling to do that, saying: "As I am the No 1 challenges, he has no right to make this demand."

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (Final day of Humal: Malton Mountain; Worcestershire 144

No play yesterday; statich ablandoned as a draw. Southgate: Warweleshet 213; Middlesse 220 for 9 (K P Dutch 71, D C Nash 51; D A Aftree 4-90, Match ablandoned as a draw. Flachampstead: Dertyshire 330 for 7 dec; Hampster 163 and 65 for 2. Match ablandoned as a draw. Collingham: Nothinghampster 300 and 145 for 5; Northeraphampsters 300 and 145 for 5; Northeraphampsters 300 and 145 for 5 for play yesterday; costch ablandoned as a draw. Cartistic Duttam 355 for 5 for and 154 for 2 dec; Ul Longley Effic. M J Foster 57; Glamptam 309 for 7 dec and 156 for 7 U RA Williams 60. W L. Law Solnor. N Killeen 3-27). Match organ 309 for 7 dec and 165 for 7 U RA Westers
60, W L Law Stinc; N Killeen 3-27, Misters
drawn. Coggisshabit. Esser 300, for 2 dec and
180 for 5dec (A. 1E Hibbert 93no, D.D. J Roberson 53; E. J Szarford 4-40; Kent 250 for 9 dec
and 8 for 0. Martch drawn.

Great Britain yesteday beat New Zealand 11-6 at Cheltenham to win the cover-ed MacRobertson Shield, the premier world team event. In the other test match Australia beat the United States 11-6 to take third place.

Football

Mickey Thomas, the former Welsh international who has been unemployed since being released from prison where he served a jall sentence for handling forged bank notes almost two years ago, has been awarded a testimorial game

at wremam. Millwall have signed three Raith Rovers players, Davie Sinclair, Stevie Crawford and Jason Dait, for a combined fee of £1.2m; and have also signed Hamilton's Paul Hartley for £400,000.

2.1.277; 370 (1949) 2805 28] 29] Paul Hartley for 1.400,000.

LENDING FIFA RANGONGS (Randomis at end of 1998 in binadaris); 1 Brazi (1) 85(ex; 2 Germany, 21 84,48; 3 Ferror (8) 90,73; 4 Cacch Regulatio (14) 80.00; 8 Hartly (3) 93,86; 6 Netherlands (6) 59,85; 7 Sneden (13) 50,72; 8 Spath (4) 59,47; 9 Russia (5) 59,27; 10 Demment (9) 56,33; 11 Portugal (18) 55,75; 12 Colombia (18) 55,55; 13 England (21) 65,18; 14 Mexico (12) 53,94; 15 Angerone (7) 53,56; 18 Zamba (26) 52,88; 17 (55,419) 52,86; 20 Gerone (29) 52,35; 21 Turnes (22) 50,96; 22 Corotte (14) 50,61; 23 Remarks (11) 52,86; 24 Romany (10) 50,21; 25 Lapar (21) 49,98; 25 Snetzment (18) 49,98; 27 Egyri (23) 49,98; 25 Snetzment (18) 49,98; 27 Egyri (23) 49,11; 28 Novy Cases (20) 47,57; 35 Turley (30) 45,70; 32 Enudor (25) 45,77; 35 Turley (30) 45,70; 37 Enudor (36) 45,57; 35 Turley (30) 45,70; 37 Enudor (36) 44,35; 38 Bookes (53) 44,35; 39 Corotte (34) 45,03; 38 Bookes (53) 44,35; 37 Enudor (28) 41,15; 44 Algent (39) 41,16; 43 Berigham (24) 41,55; 44 Algent (39) 41,46; 43 Berigham (24) 41,55; 44 Algent (39) 41,46; 43 Berigham (24) 41,55; 44 Algent (39) 41,60; 47 Hayens (27) 40,24 Breach (42) 39,51; 49 Hondusta (49) 38,67; 50 Polend (33) 37,52. Others (60) Northern Indund (49) 38,54; 70 Wales, (61) 33,01.

TODAY'S FIXTURES Speedway PREMIER LEAGUE: Landon v Belle Vue (7.30);

Mindesbrough v Oxford (7.30); Shellieki v Long Eaton (7.45). Other sports BOWLS: British Isles Outdoor Championships; Home Internationals Uordenstown and Car-ricklengus, Co Amnim). GOLF: Murphy's Irish Open (Druids Glen, Co Wicklaw).

ROWSNG: Hentey Royal Regette

nor the 1991/18 Writtmead Race was still unable to announce any substantial funding as the actress Penelope Keith braved wind and rain at Eastbourne yes-terday to launch their yacht, the 1993 Dolphin & Youth. Also hoping to bring his own British boat to the start line is Doubt Executivelder one of the majoreter. England wing Jon Sleightholme, tly-hati Richard Butland, prop Keup Yates and lock Martin Haag have all signed con-tracts to stay at the Courage League and Pilkington Cup champions, Bath, next season. ris own brush boat to the start line is Paul Standbridge, one of the mainstays in Lawrie Smith's Intrum Justitus crew last time, a veteran of three previous Whitbreads, Britain's 1987 America's Cup challenge and crewman on the first attempt by the Sirs Peter Blake and Robin Knost-Johnston in Enza to set the month the world record.

Rob Andrew's Newcastle Gosforth have signed the former Stirling Courny and Scotland B International forward, George Graham, on a three-year contract. For the last five years Graham has been play-ing rugby league with Carlisle Raiders.

correct none; Seven correct £107.65. 2ETTERS: Breble chance: 24pts £44.674.55, 22 £27.40, 20 £0.60. Four draws: £101.00. Eight homes: £7.00. Six sweys: £0.60. Lucky numbers: 2 10 £1 3.28 23. EURO 98: Tre-ble chance: 22pts £494.50, 21 £3.75. Fore-

cost (paid on nine correct): £210.60. Top 10; 21pts £101.00, 20 £8.20. Name the final-

WERNONIS: Treble chance: 24pts £286,682,00, 22 £330,25, 20 £4,65, 32 homes: £42,65, 10 aways: £12,35. BRITTENS: Treble chance (two dividends): 24pts £4,527,80, 22 £56,40. Figst downs: £41,70. Ten homes: £63,40. Sight aways: £24,65

Rugby Union

EVENING RACING RESULTS **EPSOM**

5-6 law; 2. Rise in Shine 5-2; 3. Selty Jack 12-1, 5 res. 4, 2. (R Hannor), Tote: £1.70; £1.20, £1.40, Dual Forecast: £1.30, Computer Straight Forecast: £3.17. Non Runner. Durier Straight Forecast: 23.17. Non Humner: Chemie Paradiso.

6.Edt. 1. NANDA (1 Stack) 11-2; 2. Supermove 100-30 it fav. 3. Ottore 12-1. 9 rat., 100-30 it fav. 8. Ottore 12-1. 9 rat., 100-30 it fav. 88.30; 12-40, £1.70, £3.20. Dual Forecast: £5.90. Computer Straight Forecast: £21.53. This £22.90. Non Junean Exc.

6.20: 1. POWDER RIVER (Dane O'Neil)

7.20: 1 CHICKAWICKA (7 Speake) 10-1: 2. My Best Valentine 9-2 Co fav. 3. Shamanic 6-1. 9 ran. 9-2 Co favs Jo May-Final Strate (140), 24-, 12- (8 Paling). Total: £12.00; £2.20, £1.70, £2.20, DF: £34.20. CSF: £50.71. Tricast: £272.69, Tric: £24.40.

YARMOUTH

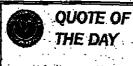
6.35: 1. TIMES OF TIMES (A McCarthy) 9-1; 2. Songsbeet 7-4 /t tor; 3. Super Rocky 7-4 /t tor; 5 ram, 14-, 3, (M Ryan; Tota: £7.50; £2.50, £1.20. Dual Forecast £6,70. 27.30; 12.30; 11.20; 0.68 rorecast: £5, (2). Computer Straight Forecast: £23.20. 7.06: 1. CONTROSSER WYMOODS: 6-5 fav. 2. Bag And A Bt 7-1; 3. Never Think Twice 12-1; 10 mm. 1¼, 4. (\$ Woods). Tota: £1.90; £1.10, £2.20, £3,00. DF: £7.20. CSF: £10.46. Trio: £32.70. Non Panner. Samara Song. Amended result: after a objection by the second to the strains. Complete American

the second to the winner, Corniche Quest was disqualified and placed last.

James is hoping to strike it lucky as a trainer after Nordic Sun delivered his second winner over jumps at Market Rasen yesterday. Weymouth-horn Lloyd-James, who began his career with David Elsworth and then travelled north as assistant to Chris Bell, became so disillusioned with racing that he took a job with the Royal Mail, But he was persuaded to take out a trainer's licence three years ago and the winners are now starting to arrive. "A couple of owners came to me and suggested I took my own licence out," explained Lloyd-James, who trains at Colin Tinkler's old yard in Malton. "For six months, I tried to combine the two iobs. I did anything and everything at the post office, including delivering letters. But now I'm concentrating purely on the racing." Lloyd-James has two jumpers and 11 Flat horses, including Plum First, beaten a short-head by Carranita when 50-1 for a listed race

📕 Former postman Lee Lloyd-

QUOTE OF



"I've just formed a new group - Cliff and the Supremes Cliff Richard refering to his backing group of past and present players



6 - the songs sung by Cliff Richard on Centre Court 17 - the unseeded women

who have appeared in Wimbledon semi-finals. 5 - the British men who have reached the quarter-

finals of a Grand Slam tournament in the open era.

Heavy showers

WEATHER Maximum temperature 180









Uppiren: V A Holder and D R Shephert.

at Beverley last March.

ы на пештапь, who have reumans.

Black breaks the **British record**

Athletics

MIKE ROWBOTTOM reports from Lausanne

Michael Johnson duly won the 400 metres here last night in a time of 43.66 seconds. It was 0.37sec off the world record, but dragged Roger Black, in second place, through to a British record of 44.37sec. That was 0.02 faster than Black's winning

time at the Olympic trials.
But for the celebratory raising of his arms, Frankie Fredericks might have earned

himself the 100m world record. The Namibian, who had already run 9.87sec going into a race that was - at least in terms of dramatis personae - an effective rehearsal for the Olympic final, finished in 9.86, just 0.01sec off the record Leroy Burrell set on the same track two years ago.

In his wake, Fredericks left a field which included the world champion, Donovan Bailey, and his sometime training partner Linford Christie, who was fifth in 10.04sec. Having finally decided to defend his Olympic 100m title, Christie will be in no doubt now about the magnitude of that task.

His immediate reaction last night was to smile ruefully and offer applause to his friend, who was already cavorting towards the crowd firing imaginary pis-tols in the jubilant style of. well, Christie.

"These are the best people I have raced against in all my life, and to beat them was fantastic," Fredericks said.

In training, Christie has always been told by his coach, Ron Roddan, to run through the line rather than to it. Perhaps the message had not got through to Fredericks, who is

still undecided whether to dou-ble up at 100 and 200 in Atlanta. on in the 400 metres B race. It was a hugely impressive performance, nevertheless. Fredericks, a fluent technician

at the worst of times, got off to a superb start, where he headed Bailey and the Trinidadian, Ato Boldon, to his left.

Bailey eventually finished second in 9.93sec, with Boldon fourth in 9.94 and Jon Drummond, who may have been slightly hampered by being credited with a false start, fourth in 10.00.

But the event is still in a very fluid state at the moment. Christie beat Bruny Surin of Canada, who had won in Paris the previous Friday, and the US trial winner, Dennis Mitchell, garbed in his habitual dayglo

Meanwhile, the world record holder, running in lane one. could only manage seventh place in 10.05sec. He is not go-

ing to the Olympics either.
Indeed, the result appeared to confirm the decline of the traditional US domination at this distance. A Namibian first, a Canadian second, a Trinidadian third, and only one US runner in the top six. You would never have believed such a state of affairs would exist after Burrell had trimmed his team-mate Lewis's record here two years

While Fredericks was exuberant, Bailey, who was con-spicuously relaxed travelling to the stadium on the athletes' bus, was also in a celebratory mood. joining the Namibian and putting his arm round his shoulders as he greeted the crowd. He clearly seems to be enjoying his running - not an easy thing to do with the Olympics The strength of last night's

where Mark Richardson and Jamie Baulch, neither of whom have earned an individual place for the Olympics, moved to fourth and fifth respectively on the British all-time list.

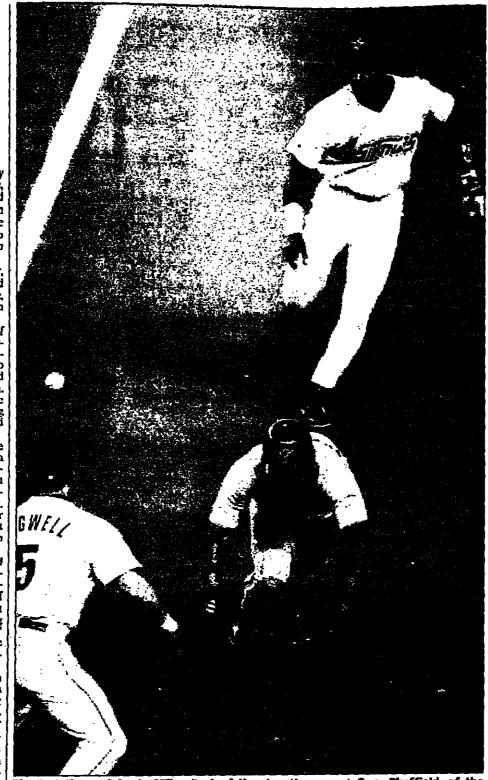
Behind the American winner, Anthuan Maybank, who did 44.15, Richardson ran 44.52sec. and Baulch took third place in

Despite the fact that both of the 23-year-olds had set personal bests, neither was exactly jubilant afterwards. "It's too late, and that's the point," said Richardson with a rueful grin. "I said I needed two more races after foud poisoning mucked me up for the trials, and I was right.

Baulch, too, admitted that the times were something of a mixed experience. "It is a bit disappointing when you know you are just going to run in the re-lay at the Olympics," he said.
"But it is all to the good for British 400 metres running. It is going from strength to etrepath."

Richardson said he had thought about finishing his season after the trials, but had decided to carry on as a matter of personal pride. "I didn't want to go back into winter training thinking I was a 45.5 runner, he said. As for the relay, he added: "We'll give the Americans a run for their money."

Jacqui Agyepong, named as a late addition to the British Olympic team on Monday after recovering from a hamstring in-jury, confirmed the selectors' faith with second place in an international 100m hurdles event in 13.18sec, Agyepong was given a place on the basis of her competitive record and an Olympic



The tast throw: Orlando Miller (top) of Houston throws out Gary Sheffield, of the Florida Martins, in the Astros' 4-3 Major League victory

Photograph: AP

Boro offer Ajax £6m for Kluivert

Football

NICK DUXBURY

Patrick Kluivert, the outstanding Ajax striker, could be on his way to Middlesbrough for £6m. Bryan Robson, the Boro manager, has made an official approach for the 20-year-old Dutch international and is prepared to break his club's transfer record, backed by chairman Steve Gibson's money and ro-

bust season-ticket sales, Middlesbrough are confident they can pull off the audacious signing and have put together a wage package worth around £1.5m a year for the powerful striker who gave glimpses of his ability in Euro 96.

Khuvert has long been expected to join Milan for the 1997/98 season, but Robson has boldly tried to bring him to England. Boro also consider Kluivert is value for money in a British transfer market that values Alan Shearer at a minimum of £12.5m.

Manchester United kept the por - and Blackburn Rovers' blood - boiling regarding Shearer with Alex Ferguson again saying (in Malta, of all places) that United were still interested. Rovers responded with yet another "no way" re-

The takeover money now available for players at Leeds United has been put to immediate use with the £2.6m signing of the Charlton Athletic midfielder Lee Bowyer, a British record for a teenager. The new cash is also financing a £2.2m bid for Nigel Martyn, the Crystal Palace goalkeeper who is wanted just as much by Everton.

Wimbledon spent nearly £2m on Milwall's "uncut diamond" Ben Thatcher yesterday, but were prevented from shelling out a further £1.5m for Manchester City's Steve Lomas when the midfield jewel turned down the Don's wage offer.

The fee for Thatcher, the England Under-21 defender, more than doubled Wimbledon's previous transfer record of £920,000 paid to Norwich for Efan Ekoku in October 1994.

"He's an uncut diamond, but we'll turn him into a polished gem," Sam Hammam, the Wimbledon owner, said. "He'll play for the full England team or I'll eat my hat."

The Derby County cheque-book was also flapping open with £1.2m being lavished on-Danny Griffin, the 18-year-old St Johnstone defender/midfielder, who won his first cap for Northern Ireland against Germany at the end of last season. Chelsea paraded their £2.5m

French defender Franck Leboeuf yesterday and then confirmed they are on target to buy the Italian midfielder Roberto Di Matteo from Lazio, but noi for the £6m which has been reported.

Manchester City are to offer Keith Curle at a cut-price £650,000 in return for a quick sale of their former captain who cost £2.5m from Wimbledon five years ago. Sunderland and Leeds are believed to be in interested.

Roy McFarland, dismissed by Bolton Wanderers in January. is in line for a return to management with Blackpool.

Jones is target for Bristol

Rugby Union DAVID LLEWELLYN

Bristol are poised to sign Wales' most capped scrum-half, Robert Jones, on a two-year contract, with an option of a further two

The former British Lion Jones, 30, who plays for Swansea, was at the Memorial Ground yesterday for talks. The club spokesman, Dave Tyler, said he did not expect anything to be signed until Jones had slept on the offer.

The deal must be a substantial one - "It's the one we have offered all our international players," Tyler said - since Jones rejected a financial package with Harlequins in February after Swansea promised him a benefit next season. Jones had also been linked with Newcastle and South Africa's Western Province, who had offered him a reputed £180,000 for a full-time, two year contract.

Bristol's director of coaching, Alan Davies, had picked out Jones as the ideal replacement for the England scrum-half, Kyran Bracken, who left Bristol for Saracens last month.

There is a certain irony in that, since it was Davies who rudely interrupted Jones's international career when he dropped the player to the beach

The Lions scrum-half did win a further six caps under Davies, however, before taking over from Gareth Edwards as most-capped Wales No 9.

Wasps have lost out to their London neighbours Harlequins over the signing of lock Glyn Llewellyn, who has rejected a move to Sudbury for a more rewarding deal at The Stoop. Quins apparently offered a third more than Wasps.

Liewellyn will team up with brother Gareth to form an all Wales international second row. Harlequius have also confirmed the signing of the France flanker Laurent Cabannes on a two-year contract.

> TODAY'S NUMBER

2,584,000

The difference between the career earnings of Tim Henman and Todd Martin, Henman, who is four years younger than the 25-year-old Martin, has won £216,000. as a tennis player while Martin has amassed £2.8m.

Heulot enjoys a champagne holiday

ROBIN NICHOLL with the Tour de France

There was little time for sam-pling as the Tour de France felt the rolling lands of the Chamagne region under its wheels. but Chris Boardman's GAN team-mates had good reasons to call for a icroboam later in their Metz hotel.

Riders of their calibre, however, have to enjoy the headiness of the big occasion without resorting to the bubbly. Frederic Moncassin, with a stage win at Den Bosch to his credit, accepted more back-slapping and handshaking yesterday despite losing the Tour leader's yellow jersey.

He was unruffled as the colours had only crossed the botel corridor to his team-mate Stephane Heulot, and Moncassin had something else to celehrate, even if he found himself 3min 45sec off the pace. He was announced yesterday as one of five riders to represent France in the Olympic road events, and his team-mate Didier Rous was also named for Atlanta. Out on the road, Henlot and

four others launched an unex-pectedly successful escape after 35km of the 232km (145 miles) from Sensons to Lar de Mar dine. Fleulot, his compatriol Cyri Sangram, the Dutchman Danny Neissen, Rolf Jaeritann

of Switzerland, and Italy's Mariano Piccoli arrived at the lakeside with a lead of 4min 33sec on the overnight leader, Moncassin, and contenders-in-waiting, such as Miguel Indurain.

Ambition was still hot when the main field and riders began sprinting for sixth place, and the spare points left for high finishing, but Jan Svorada's defence of his green points jersey came to grief. He touched wheels and was flung in front of the Frenchman Laurent Brochard. who went head first over the fallen Czech. Bjarne Riis, Denmark's main contender, and Italy's Mauro Bettin also fell in a tangle of men and machines. None was badly hurt.

Heulot was then safe on the podium with an overall lead of 22sec over Italy's Mariano Piccoli. This was further reward for his team manger, Roger Legeay, who ended Heulot's months of

waiting for an offer after leaving
the Banesto team of Miguel Indurain because he wanted to race

Heulot had become involved in
the kind of "suicide" move that
happens daily in the race, and for a French team. Heulot's first is usually chased down by teams repayment was victory in the will interests to protect.

French road race tile at Castres Yesterday Moncassin exnearly two weeks ago.

panded his oversight seven sec-

Yesterday he was looking for points towards the red polka dot ersey of No 1 mountain racer, and found himself instructed instead to race for the yellow one.

Yesterday: Stage 4

Soissons to Lac de Madine



company broke to build a lead of 17 minutes in 75 kilometres. but Heulot was not allowed to share in the pace setting until Legeay had studied the op-

Zülle to 11 with second place at an intermediate sprint, which earned a four-second bonus. That was before Heulot and

caught the Dutchman off-guard with his Sprint.

TOUR DE FRINCE, Fourth stage (232km, Solasons to Lac de Mediaine): 2.C Suggan (Fr. Aubenvillen) Ehr 43mm Süesci. 2 D Neissen (Neth, Rabobavid): 3 R Jacomen (Sw. MG Technogen): 4 S Heuter (French, GAN): 5 M Pocol (R. Brescheid) all same time; 6 C Camin (R. Brescheid): 44.23; 7 E Meggin (Fr. Festra): 8 D Abdoujapsov (Libe), Reini): 9 A Festral: 8 D Abdoujapsov (Libe), Reini): 9 A Festral: 8 D Abdoujapsov (Libe), Reini): 9 A Festral: 8 D Andoujapsov (Libe), Reini): 9 A Festral: 8 D Andoujapsov (Libe), Reini): 9 A Festral: 18 D Andous (R. Saccio): 16 V Festral: 18 D A Festral: 19 B Henburger (Pen. TWA): 20 C Vesseur (Fr. GAN) all same time. Selective: 2 Piccoli + 22sec; 3 Saugrain + 34; 4 Jacomen common. Overell standings: 1 Heuter (22th Sümin Esser: 4408: 9 A Olero (Sp. Mape) + 4:12: 10 B Ris (Den. Deuterber Telekom) + 4:12: 11 M Indurain (Sp. Baresto) + 4:17; 12 L Jasiost (Fr. ONCE) + 4:20; 13 B Dentman + 4:22; 14 Rominger + 4:24; 15 I S Socration (10, Reicher) + 4:23; 19 M Gantil (tr. Pois) + 4:32; 20 P Secration (11, Reicher) + 4:23; 19 M Gantil (tr. Pois) + 4:32; 20 P Secration (11, Reicher) + 4:31; 19 M Gantil (tr. Pois) + 4:32; 20 P Secration (11, Reicher) + 5:12.

At the finish the smart mon-

ateur world champion before

the sport went open. Saugrain,

first Tour memorable, and he

caught the Dutchman off-guard

was on Nelissen, the last am-

ever, was out to make his

Scotland to stage first major match

Rugby League

DAVE HADFIELD

Professional nugby league will go to Scotland in August, with a match against Ireland at Partick Thistle's ground, Firhill Park. The fixture will be the first major tie to be staged north of the border and could be the precursor to the establishment of a Super League side in Scot-

"It will be a full international, with all eligible players available to the two countries," the League's chief executive, Maurice Lindsay, said.

Ireland, who reached the final of the Emerging Nations' World Cup last year, have already drawn on numerous players from professional clubs who have Irish antecedents.

Scotland, who also played in that tournament, are able to select players with Scottish parentage, such as South Wales' veteran prop Hugh Waddell, and Darren Shaw of the

The meeting of the Rugby League Council in Wigan yesterday also decided to issue a questionnaire to players to find out what they think about the running of the game.

The questions will include sounding out their opinions on recent rule changes, the success or otherwise of summer rugby, the role of agents and the use of drugs within the game.

The Rugby League Professional Players' Association made a bid for official recognition by the League, but left the meeting without knowing whether or not they had been

successful. The former Great Britain centre, Darren Wright, is the latest Widnes player to be hunted by Sale. The rugby union club has already signed Adrian Hadley on a permanent deal

and John Devereux for a closeseason stint. The Warrington captain, Paul Cullen, will today face charges arising out of an incident for which he was placed on report

during the match against Wigan

Oxford crew burst through late

HUGH MATHESON reports from Henley

Henley opened with a mixed bag of rain and races, and with a changeable headwind it was a day for Barbours, not blazers. The revised rules for the lesser events for eights were challenged immediately when Upper Thames, a Henley club, objected to racing a crew from Essen Kupferdreh, Germany, because it breached the rule that "no crew of a boat club of any university, college or secondary

school" may enter. The Essen boys happily confessed to being German student

THAMES CUP First round: London

B' bt London 'C' 33/4 lengths, 6min

57sec: Agecroft bt Bedford 41/2,

7:10; Tharnes bt Quintin 13/4, 7:18;

Nottingham bt Stanford (US) 3,

6:54: Auriol Kensington bt Carn-

bridge 99 21/4, 7:04; City of Bristol lost to Wemmer Pan (SA) 3,

7:00; Wallingford A bt Bewdley 3/8, 7:00; Neptune (Irl) bt Wallingford

B 41/2, 7:14; Bewl Bridge bt Roy-

al Navy 1, 7:31; TSS bt Walton 2,

7:11; London A bt Nottingham and

Union 21/2, 7:06; Lea bt Marlow

33/8, 7:07; Staines bt Llandaff 1/2,

7:11; Essen Kupferdreh (Ger) bt Up-

TEMPLE CUP First round: Cher-

well 'B' bt Univ Coll London 3, 7:01;

Strathclyde Univ bt Reading Univ 1/3,

7:11; Leeds Univ bt Oxford Univ light-

weight 11/4, 7:18; Nephthys lost to

Univ of Bristol 11/4, 7:11; Trinity College Dublin 'B' lost to Dartmouth

per Thames 31/4, 6:50.

round for a club to race for in the Thames Cup because there are no student clubs in Germany. They went for the Thames Cup because some of them had raced for it last year. The objection was dismissed.

The best race of the day came in the Britannia Cup for coxed fours when an Oxford "exam" crew with three practice outings, rowing as Isis, had allowed Sons of the Thames a twolength lead to Fawley before bursting through to win by three feet. Isis was still a length down at the mile and one-eighth, but came up to level for an agonisingly long period before a final heave took them to victory.

College 'B' (US) 21/2, 7:06; Not-tingham Univ 'A' bt Okeanos (Neth)

13/8, 7:03; Durham Univ bt First and

Third Trinity, Camb 2¹/₂, 7:24; Newcastle Univ bt Florida IT (US)

easily, 7:12; Tilburg (Neth) bt Mag-delene, Camb, 2, 7:31; Rhodes (SA)

tit Edinburgh University 41/4, 7:29; Atlantic City (US) bt Nihon Univ

(Japan) 23/a, 7:18; Dantmouth A

(US) bt Ridley College (Can) 21/4,

6:56; Nottingham Univ B bt Mag-

dalen 11/2, 7:13; Eton bt Orange

PRINCESS ELIZABETH: St Ed-

ward's bt Radley 'B' 31/4, 7:04;

Kingston Grammar School bt Bed-

ford Modern School 31/4, 7:30:

Shrewsbury School A bt Abingdon

'B' 3^{1/}4, 7:34; Abingdon School 'X' bt Emanuel 2, 7:23; Cheitenham

College lost to King's School,

Chester, 11/2, 7:14; St John's High

(US) lost to Latymer Upper School

Coest (US) 1/2, 6:52.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS FROM HENLEY ROYA

There were few indicators of the eventual winner of the Diamond Sculls as the selected scullers are all scheduled to begin racing today. But the Irish lightweight Gearoid Towey set a fast time in beating John coach, Mike Spracklen. Burton, of Australia. Towey, 19, was fifth in the Junior World

Championships last year and has beaten Niall O Toole, the 1991 world champion. In the Temple Cup, Eton upset the progress of the new Resolute boat being developed for the United States Olympic squad when the Orange Coast College crew was unable to hold them off in the closing stages of the race. Eton's finishing time of 5min 53sec was

41/2, 7:32; 8B and N (US) bt Bed-

ford School B 3/8, 7:40; St Paul's

bt Hampton B 11/2, 7:29; Hamp-

ton School A bt Coleraine 21/4.

7:28; Eton bt Radley A 124, 7:26;

Canford bt King's School 1, 6:48;

Monmouth bt Oratory 11/4, 7:19;

Brentwood College (Can) bt King's

WYFOLD: Twickenham bt Hereford

4, 7:36; Henley bt Upper Thames

easily, 7.45; Lea bt London 'B' 334.

7:52: Worcester bt Blauweiss

(Swit) not rowed out; Molesey 'B'

bt Sind (Pak) row-over, Bewl Bridge

bt Molesey A 33/8, 7:56; Cambridge

99 bt Morttake 11/4, 7:53; Queen's

Tower bt Wallingford easily, 7:50;

Vesta bt Thames Tradesmen 1,

7:42; Tyne bt Thames 11/2, 8:05;

Nottingham B bt Royal Engineers

31/4, 7:20; Quintin bt Bradford-on-

Avon 2, 7:41: Kingston bt Rob Roy

School Worcester 31/4, 7:07.

Resolute boat has a new hull shape, being widest at the No 3 seat as well as a novel construction with no bulkheads. It is said to be favoured by the US eight but not by their English In the Princess Elizabeth,

Shiplake College found they too had a newly shaped boat after several of the outriggers were altered between their morning practice and the race, which had to be postponed. It made little difference to their smooth progress through Westminster hool to a meeting today with St Edward's Oxford, the favourites for the school eights

REGATTA

DIAMONDS: D W Nicoli (Uppe Thames) bt P Ujhelyi (Bedford MS) 1/2, 8:24; SEB McLaughlin (Mosman) los to L J Fletcher (Thames) 2, 8:37; M P Van der Schoot (Koninklijke Dor-drechtse Roei-en Zelwereeniging) ht D H T Pattullo (Aberdeen) 12, 8:30; Towey (Fermoy) bt J J A Burton (Commercial RC, Aus) 4, 8:16; Bul-les (Leander) bt. Van Den Broek (Castledore) 3, 8:53.

BRITANNIA: Univ of London bt the Oratory School 3, 7:58; Liverpool Univ bt Univ of Westminster 314, 8:15; Molesey bt St Hild & St Bede 284. 7:56; Isis bt Sons 3ft, 7:33; Reading bt Thames Tradesmen 4½, 7:51; Dartmouth College X (US) bt Walling ford 1/2, 7:53; Durham Univ A b Thames 1½, 7:56; Durham Univ 8 bt Cambridge (US) 3, 8:26; Georgetown (US) bt City of Oxford 4½, 7:57; Britannia: Belfast bt Quintin, 2, 8:09; Loughborough bt Nottingham Trent 14, 8:18; Kingston bt London 142, 8:02; Harvard Sculling Club (US) bt Radley 1, 8:07.

£100,000 boost for drivers **Motor racing**

GWYN DOLPHIN

Would-be touring car racers received a major boost with the launch yesterday of a £100,000 championship. The winner of the Vauxhali Vectra Challenge, a one-make saloon series which will run with all rounds of the popular British Touring Car Championship, will also be loaned a Vectra race car for use in the 1998 series.

The championship, aimed at young British drivers who want to build a career in touring cars rather than aim for the few seats available in Formula One. is expected to attract a capacity 30-car field in its first season. Replacing Formula Vauxhall, the company's waning single-seater series, the contest is likely to recularly race in front of crowds top ping 30,000. In addition, both terrestrial and satellite television will cover the event. A celebrity car will also be entered in each

of the races. "The cars will be fast, they will sound great and the series will act as a valuable stepping stone into the BTCC," Vauxhall's Mike Nicholson said. The new race-prepared machines, which will be developed by current touring car driver James Thompson, will use new 2.5-litre V6 engines producing more than 200 horsepower.

Goss finds way home

STUART ALEXANDER

in second place with his 60-foot monohuli Gartmore Investments. Britain was set for another second in the Europe 1 Single-handed Transatiantic Race last night as Pete Goss coaxed his 50footer, Aqua Quorum, though the mists to the finish last night. Goss, a 34-year-old former Royal Marine, has had to cope with a knock-down which broke the battens in his mainsail, a wrecked spinnaker, and the contamination of most of his food by a seawater leak. Ever to win on handicap the 490-mile cheerful, he regards the 2.810- Round Gotland Race, both in

With Josh Hall safely in Newport

al preparation for the Vendee Globe Singlehanded Non-stop Round the World which starts

in November. However, he failed to beat the 60-footers, won by Gerry Roufs in Groupe LG2, and was well behind the victorious 50footer, Telecom Italia, in which Giovanni Soldini knocked one day 22hr 54min off the record to set a new 50-foot monobull

time of 15days 18hr 29min. EF Education's all-woman crew, skippered by Mikaela von Koskull, beat their Swedish male counterparts, skippered by Magnus Olsson in the absence of Lawrie Smith, by one hour mile trip from Plymouth as ide- 1993 Whitbread 60s.

Glazzard looks good

Equestrianism **GENEVIEVE MURPHY** reports from Stoneleigh

Geoff Glazzard jumped two

confident rounds on Hello Oscar to win yesterday's Daewoo Grand Prix qualifier at the Royal Show at Stoneleigh.

It was particularly satisfying for Glazzard, who had feared the stallion might have lost some of his enthusiasm after his experience in the Aachen Nations Cup last week, in which the horse made five mistakes in both his rounds. Yesterday's course, though testing enough, proved well within his compass

Glazzard beat Geoff Luckett, on his long-standing partner Vantage, and Nick Skelton, on his recent acquisition Cathleen, the former mount of Meredith Michaels, of the United States.

Skeiton, who has been selected for the Olympics with Showtime, expects to ride Cathleen in this month's King George V Gold Cup at Hickstead. The new Daewoo series, which has its first final at the Royal Show next year, has given Glazzard two wins and one runner-up place, which put him well ahead on points.

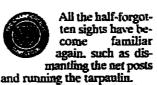
ROYAL SHOW (Stoneleigh): Daewoo Grand Pric 1 Hello Oscar (G Glazzard) clear, 51.50sec; 2 Vantage (6 Luckett) clear, 54.72; 3 Cathleen 'N Skelton) four faults, 42.00. and he attacked it with vigour.

Rain clouds quarter-finals day





Pete Sampras (left) battles the power of Richard Krajicek (above) in their quarter-final at Wimbledon yesterday



and running the tarpaulin.

For the first time for four vears, the All England Club's ground staff has been in action more often than the players - one poor chap was trapped under the covers and had to be taken off serve for the first set. on a stretcher - and the weather outlook is not promising.

There is so little scope for mathe organisers may have to consider the implications of finishing the tournament next week.

Yesterday, when the crowds gathered to see Tim Henman become the first Briton to play in the quarter-final of the men's

singles for 23 years, there were long, frustrating rain delays.

The opening men's quarterfinals, featuring Pete Sampras and Richard Krajicek on the Centre Court and Goran Ivanisevic and Jason Stoltenberg on Court No 1, started at 12,35pm, only half an hour late. But the players were back in the locker rooms after 20 minutes. At this stage, Sampras and Krajicek were level at 2-2 in the opening set, and Stoltenberg led Ivanisevic 5-3 and was about to

During the three and a half hours delay. Wimbledon experienced another first. Sir Cliff nocuvre when rain disrupts the Richard was on song at the back of the numbers he recorded long before Yorkshire's Roger Taylor played in the quarter-fi- advising spectators of the latest nals in 1973.

initiative against Sampras, scheduling and wondering how

breaking the three-times champion to 7-5 to take the opening set and forcing the American to save two break points in the second game of the second set. sevic, having lost the opening set, 6-3, led 6-5 on serve in the second set when rain interrepted the proceedings for a was 1992, when the tournament second time, after 32 minutes.

Stoltenberg was only one game from the semi-finals after play resumed again, after an hour and 40 minutes. He led the fourth-seeded Ivanisevic, 6-3, 7-6, and 6-5 with the Croat about to serve when rain intervened again. Sampras was two sets down, 5-7, 6-7, and level at I-1 in the third.

the Club's chief executive, has become a familiar sound again, news from the London Weath-When play resumed, at er Centre. Alan Mills, the ref-4.36pm, Krajicek gained the eree, was busy pondering the

Photographs: David Ashdown many matches could be

Scles between ram delays on the Saturday, and Andre Agassi won squeezed in today along with the women's semi-finals between the men's title on the Sunday in Steffi Graf and Kimiko Date and five-sets against ivanisevic.

in 1991, there was play on the Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, due to middle Sunday for the first time ever following the wettest The last year that Wimbledon became a mecca for umbrelias first week on record. The opening Monday was rained off and only 52 out of 240 scheduled was extended to the third Monday. That was when 7,798 specamatches were completed in the nine hours and 15 minutes play tors were admitted free to watch. the mixed doubles final and the available by Thursday evening

The tournament was completed on schedule, Graf de-feating Gabriela Sabatini for the women's title and Michael Stich beating Boris Becker in the all-German men's final.

Greg Rusedski has withdrawn in Ghana, which starts a week tomorrow, because of a back injury. His place in the team will be taken by Luke Milligan, the 19-year-old from Middlesex who reached the third round at Wimbledon.

More reports, page 30

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



- ACROSS 1 Something done by the Parisians? (4, 8) 9 Like "American Pie", with
- cool accompaniment? (7)
 10 Black horse outside advice centre (7) 11 Range not right for everyone 25 New Age element (4)
- (4) 12 One German's about to pop inside church alcove (5) 13 Frame for front of garage
- delivered (4) 16 Choose gold, as foreign Prince, perhaps? (7)
 17 Refusal to have posh London school beside theatre (7)

dence, it's plain (7)

18 Old boy you encountered in France cherishes indepen-

- by tree is to get kit off (7)
 23 Youth returning to English valley (4)
 24 Neckwear at Oxford enables one to make connection (3-
- 28 Boarded out by transport foundation? (4-3) 29 Tree's a variety not originally native to Japan, for

30 Singletons in major suit of-

ten featured in column? (6,

DOWN Intended to produce shame,

- antique or modern (4) Studio with a phone that's
- right (7) Cold jar used by Romans stance (7)
- Club account entrusted to yours truly (4) Latin book a pupil's given free (7) Features of police interview
- procedures, measures judge introduced (4-9) What seems to be the attrition rate, according to navi-gator's calculation? (4, 9) Bore from Southern Ger-many entertaining excessive
- lv (5) 15 Manage to turn up before husband for date? (5) 19 Mount with fiery tempera-
- ment (7)
 20 Tall, thin Deputy Lieutenant with prickly exterior (7)
 Honolulu air agency? (7)
 All but loveless? Perhaps,
 with qualifications (1-6)
- 26 It's instrumental in helping players to find pitch (4)
 27 Potentate's saft spiked with

Make the longest word you can from GRITEAUSII Saturday's Secamble: WANQUISH THE FRANKLIN SCRAMBLE

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Souness takes on Saints challenge

DERRICK WHYTE

Graeme Souness, on his return to English football two years after his controversial departure from Anfield, has one immediate target: to push Matthew Le Tissier back into the England

Souness, formerly in charge of Rangers, Liverpool and Ga-latasaray, was yesterday named as Southampton's new manager on a three-year contract. Le Tissier is the most talented footballer in Britain, and if he is honest with himself he knows he could do more than he did last season," Souness

"I want to get more out of him and I want to get him back where he belongs - that's back in the England side," Souness added. "With someone of Matthew's ability in your side, you've always got a chance of winning any match. He is a very special talent and he must be treated in a special way. I think that everyone at the club appreciates that, even the other

players." The former Scottish in-ternational, sacked by the Turkish club, Galatasaray, at the end of last season, takes over from Dave Merrington, who was dismissed by the Saints last month. Souness will be in charge of team matters at The Dell, with Lawrie McMenemy continuing as director of football, and the new manager said: "As anyone who knows me will tell you, I love a challenge - but we have to be realistic.

"I know that it will be difficult, but I believe that Southampton are a better team than last season's position indicates. The season before they came 10th with more or less the same set of players - and that's what we've got to aim for." Sourcess added.

"I think I have mellowed a lot. Maybe I am prepared to listen to other people more than

"Don't forget, I was very young when I first became a manager with Rangers. I think I am a better manager now but, of course, only time will tell. I want to make Southampton a place to be feared, a place

I have ever done.



ustice to be designed to \$650,000.

In the property of the control
where teams will feel uncomfortable. It took me only five minutes in Lawrie's company to convince me about taking the

job. He is passionate about the

game, and so am I." McMenemy said: "We are delighted to have someone of Graeme's calibre at the club. He was our first choice. He is someone who will have the respect of both the public and the players. The senior players

report back on Monday, so the

timing is right."
The Saints' chairman, Guy Askham, added: "We hope this appointment proves to the fans that Southampton are very keen to have a future in the Premiership and win things."

The first target for Souness

in the transfer market is the de-

fender David Holdsworth, who is moving from Watford for £500,000. The Saints' new manager wasted no time moving for Holdsworth to replace another central defender, Richard Hall, who is joining West Ham. Holdsworth, whose twin brother, Dean, plays for Wimbledon, was out of contract at

new deal recently. The 27-year-old will travel to The Dell to complete the move today. This job is a new beginning for Sonness, who left Liverpool in 1994 with the club reduced to mid-table mediocrity. There was dismay at his £20m worth of wheeler-dealing in the trans-fer market, and disapproval of

Watford after turning down a

many of his signings Rule by fear rather than consensus seemed to be the order of play, according to regular An-field observers - yet the fans had felt optimistic when he returned in 1991 as the successor to Kenny Dalglish, following his fine five-year track record at Rangers.

However, Souness fell out of favour when a picture of him recuperating from heart surgery appeared in the Sun on the third anniversary of the Hillsborough tragedy. The tabloid newspaper was reviled by the fans for its coverage of the disaster, and Merseyside was out-

raged by Souness' insensitivity. Now, he has a chance to reestablish himself in the top flight, albeit with a club with arguably lower ambitions than his previous ports of call in Glasgow and Liverpool.

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be played on Centre Court.

conclusion of the men's doubles

John McEnroe and Michael

Stich defeating Jim Grabb and

Richey Reneberg, 19-17 in the

third set, on Court No 1 - and

On that occasion there had

lowing a week of fine weather.

Play was washed out on the sec-

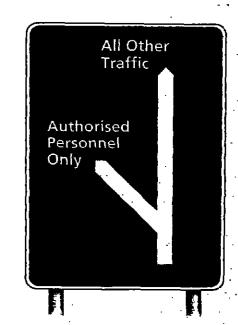
ond Friday, and the men's semi-

finals were divided between the

Centre Court and Court No 1

on the following day. Steffi Graf defeated Monica

the junior doubles events.



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